

Meet New England's Newest Leaders in the Law

ALM's inaugural New England Legal Awards honor extraordinary attorneys from across the region in a series focusing on newer lawyers making names for themselves.

By Michael Marciano

September 20, 2023

Kristen Grannis has built a reputation as a top private equity and mergers and acquisitions lawyer in Boston and beyond. She is a natural leader who has quickly become an influential lawyer whose career elevations stem from her high-caliber work and the strong relationships she has built with colleagues and counterparts in the legal industry. In January 2018, Grannis not only made partner, she was also named co-chair of the Boston corporate department that same year and has helped play a strategic role in helping grow the office's corporate bench. More recently, she was named global vice chair of the firm's private equity and investment fund practice. Serving in this leadership role while under 40 is a testament to her rapid ascent in the legal market.

What are the biggest challenges you have faced in becoming an attorney?

Early on in my career, I second-guessed myself a lot. I worried that I didn't have enough experience, I didn't understand the lingo or "the way things have always been done." This made me frequently feel like an outsider to a career that was simultaneously intriguing and exciting. What I didn't realize at the time was that I just needed time. I needed time to understand, to grow, to learn and to gain the experience needed to be a confident private equity lawyer.

Who or what has inspired you to stay on track and realize your goal of becoming a lawyer?

I'm inspired by the women who have come before me in the private equity field. It is not an easy path to get here, and I now endeavor to make this path more



Courtesy photo

Kristen Grannis, Latham & Watkins

accessible for historically underrepresented groups. For individuals who haven't grown up surrounded by private equity, finance or similar fields, it can be harder to get up to speed, both in terms of a learning curve and relationship-building. I constantly work to help change that because there are a lot of great minds out there that the legal industry would benefit having in this space.

What goals have you set for yourself in the years ahead?

I have always had a team-oriented approach, and each day I continue to foster that within my own team. It is important to me to ensure my colleagues also grow in their careers and work to deepen relationships with our clients. It is a fundamental aspect of our practice that is so often overlooked. All of this is with the goal of maintaining our reputation as the premier midmarket and structured capital team, both locally in Boston and globally.