

Private Sector Career Symposium

February 16, 2018

Women Leaders in the Law Panelist Biographical Information

Ellen Oran Kaden '77

Ellen Kaden retired in 2015 after a 38-year career in business, law and academia. For almost 17 years, she served as the chief legal officer of Campbell Soup Company, where she managed the global Legal Department, the Office of Government Affairs, and the Public Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility groups. Prior to joining Campbell, she was Executive Vice President and General Counsel of CBS. Earlier in her career, she was a member of the Faculty of Law at Columbia Law School, and then practiced law at Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York.

Ms. Kaden is a Trustee Emerita of Columbia University, where she served as the Chair of the Audit Committee. She has also served on the boards of the Institute for Judicial Administration and the Columbia University Press, and as a member of the Corporate Advisory Committee of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the Steering Committee of the International Rule of Law Council of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now, Human Rights First). Ms. Kaden earned her B.A. from Cornell University, where she was named the Cornelius W. De Kiewet Scholar, and her M.A. from the University of Chicago as a Graduate Fellow of the Danforth Foundation. After earning her J.D. from Columbia Law School, she served as a law clerk to Hon. Marvin E. Frankel of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Kim Koopersmith, Partner and Chairperson of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Ms. Koopersmith guides the strategic direction of the firm, heads the firm's management committee and plays a leading role in ensuring the firm's continued commitment to the highest levels of client service and in strengthening its dedication to diversity, pro bono work and attorney excellence. She has played a key role in the enhancement of the firm's overall performance, earning recognition for her innovative and transformative approach to law firm leadership. Prior to her role in management, Ms. Koopersmith was a partner in the firm's litigation practice, where she handled complex commercial litigation matters and served as relationship partner to several of the firm's largest clients.

Throughout her career, Ms. Koopersmith has taken on a substantial role in pioneering many of Akin Gump's efforts to enhance diversity and attract and retain the best talent. She has been instrumental in the firm's diversity efforts, including the firm's participation in numerous scholarships and pipeline efforts. She is also an active participant in legal industry efforts to address diversity. Ms. Koopersmith has received much recognition for her efforts and accomplishments in making Akin Gump a dynamic organization. In 2015, she was named to *The Lawyer's* "Hot 100" list of the most noteworthy legal performers of the year for her role in

Akin Gump's historic hire of Bingham McCutchen's London office. She was named an "agent of change" by *Women of Influence* magazine in 2014 for her efforts to promote a diverse work environment and flexible work schedules. In 2011, she was the recipient of *InsideCounsel* magazine's Pathmaker Award, presented annually to a law firm leader whose "courage, unyielding vision, integrity, conviction and authenticity [have] carved a groundbreaking path and laid a new foundation to accelerate the economic empowerment of attorneys of color or women." Additionally, *Law360* selected her as one of its "2012 Most Innovative Managing Partners," citing "almost two decades creating and expanding advancement opportunities for women and minorities both inside and outside of the firm, making her among the most innovative leaders at U.S. firms."

Ms. Koopersmith is involved in numerous community, civic and charitable activities, including serving on the board of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She has also chaired the board of Equal Justice Works, which facilitates opportunities and financial support for law students and law school graduates who seek to pursue a career in public service. She also co-chairs the Pro Bono Institute Law Firm Committee and sits on the board of Her Justice, an organization dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence. Ms. Koopersmith received her B.A., cum laude, in 1981 from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. degree in 1984 from Fordham University School of Law.

Kathy Surace-Smith '85, General Counsel, Nanostring Technologies, Inc.

Kathy Surace-Smith has served as Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Seattle-based NanoString Technologies, a NASDAQ-listed provider of life science tools for translational research and developer of molecular diagnostics since February 2013. She was Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of SonoSite Inc. (Bothell, WA), a NASDAQ-listed medical device company specializing in hand carried ultrasound systems, for eight years prior to its acquisition by Fujifilm, Inc. in 2012. Ms. Surace-Smith began her career in private practice with the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and has also held legal positions with Metawave Communications in Redmond, WA, Alcatel NV in Paris, France and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, England. She received an A.B. in politics from Princeton University and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, where she served on the Law Review and received Achievement with Honors, Parker Program in Foreign Law Award. At Columbia, she shared the award with her husband for highest grade point average in international law courses. She is Board Chair of the United Way of King County and a trustee of the Fred Hutch Cancer Center in Seattle and the YWCA of King and Snohomish Counties. She also serves as co-chair of the Policy Leadership Group of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.