



WOMEN LEADERS IN TECH LAW WINNERS (LITIGATION): Melanie Blunsch



Courtesy photo

Melanie Blunsch of Latham & Watkins.

Melanie Blunsch is a partner with Latham & Watkins.

What's your proudest professional achievement of the past year and why?

I had a very big week in April 2024 when I successfully argued two appeals before the Ninth Circuit in the same week in two very different securities cases. The first was for online gaming company Skillz. We won at the District Court level, with the court recognizing that Skillz had not made any false statements to the market about its financials or its gaming platform capabilities, and the Ninth Circuit affirmed our win within a few weeks of the argument. The second case was an insider-trading case against the global

investment fund BC Partners. In recognizing that BC Partners had not even possessed material nonpublic information, much less traded on it, the Ninth Circuit vindicated our client and established important precedent regarding the pleading standards for insider trading in the Ninth Circuit. Both cases were very high-stakes matters, and it was extremely gratifying to successfully resolve these disputes and close the books for our clients. And on a personal level, I was thrilled to get both wins affirmed after arguing the appeals within days of each other. Having Judge Johnstone say,



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“Welcome back, Ms. Blunski,” during the second argument was an absolute highlight of my year.

What’s one piece of advice you’d give to a woman starting out in tech law?

Get to know your clients. Being a great lawyer is about more than just knowing the law: you have to be able to apply it in a way that aligns with your clients’ values and business objectives. You may be working on one aspect of their terms of services or one lawsuit in their portfolio, but you have to be able to see the big picture, and the ripple effects that what you do on those terms, or in that case, might have on future business deals or other cases. Ask questions and really listen to your client’s answers. It’s in the details that you’ll find the keys to giving good legal advice that doesn’t just solve the immediate problem but also adds long-term real value.

What is a group, tool or initiative that has helped you grow in your career or contributes to the development of pipelines for women leaders in tech law?

I am part of so many fantastic groups for women lawyers these days, from Latham’s Bay Area Women Enriching Business (WEB) Committee and ChiPs to Facebook groups for lawyer moms or lawyers with Pelotons. All of these groups have helped me build a network and grow in different ways, whether by helping me find mentors (or mentees), expand my network across both the technology sector and other industries, or just feel like I have a community of support. My best advice is to find groups that you enjoy that match your interests. The group that you’re most excited to connect with is the one that is going to lift you up the most when you need it.