This book shares women lawyers’ wide diversity of experiences as they have overcome obstacles, reached goals, and led lives rich with opportunities, challenges, and successes. It does not enter the debate about having it all, climbing ladders or jungle gyms, or leaning out or in. It avoids the unattainable image of a woman precariously balancing on a tightrope in favor of telling real stories about real professional women being managers of their careers and families. Here the contributors share real stories, of real women lawyers, managing the varied aspects of their lives. What works for one of them may not work for all. If you take away one lesson from the many shared, we hope you, your practice, and your personal life will be the better for it.

This book’s genesis is the belief that to change the workplace for the betterment of all women, there’s not just one model, but rather story, after story, after story of happy and successful women. We are grateful for the contributors who have generously shared their stories in order to encourage both their colleagues and those women who are newer to the practice of law to hang in there and to make choices that work for each of them. We are also grateful for the years of hard work and dedication by the coeditors of this book, Teresa M. Beck, Jacqueline Mecchella Bushwack, and Shayna M. Steinfeld.

We hope you will learn, laugh, cry, and be inspired.

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Sabrina Beavens, Hailyn Chen
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