Her Story: Lessons in Success from Lawyers Who Live It is designed to encourage, teach, and provide insights to fellow attorneys about successfully managing daily lives and careers while climbing the ladder of success and ascending into executive roles. Our message is both positive and uplifting. It is a compilation of stories about achieving success while juggling career advancement and the curveballs of life, and doing so with strength and grace. Her Story tells the real story about real lawyers’ lives with abject honesty as told by the lawyers themselves. These are not sensational stories but amazing ones. These are stories about lawyers overcoming obstacles, reaching goals, and leading lives that are full to the brim and rich with challenges, successes, and opportunities. These are stories of hope and lessons learned; stories with advice and unique perspectives. The stories are of and by women who enjoy their careers, whose eyes light up when they talk about the joy of the practice of law and the joy of their personal lives, and who understand that telling their story is important in order to encourage both their colleagues and those lawyers who are newer to the practice of law to hang in there and make their lives work for them and those who will follow.

Her Story is designed to encourage further discussion on topics that we all face but seldom speak about. Each chapter ends with Reflection questions to facilitate discussion in a book club, roundtable, or meeting setting. Enjoy the book from start to finish or by picking out a chapter or essay of interest. The book is divided into eight chapters with topics from career management, to developing a plan for success, gaining momentum, keeping values straight, building endurance, professional goals, maintaining perspective, getting back up, and finally, going the distance.

In an effort to inspire women attorneys everywhere, the Work/Life Management Subcommittee of the American Bar Association’s Woman Advocate Committee embarked on this project to broadcast to a larger audience these positive and inspiring stories of real women attorneys. Collectively, these stories provide true examples of how attorneys are managing the interplay between
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thriving careers and enjoyable, full lives. Individually, these stories take you on a journey through personal challenges and struggles while at the same time offering a plethora of advice and guidance on all aspects of career development. These are real stories with views of what really matters when we step back from day-to-day challenges and set our eyes on the big picture. This is what happens when we deliberately define our goals with inspiration and focus.

We have discovered that these stories are really the stories of the professional workforce at large in the twenty-first century. It is our deepest hope that this collection of powerful, encouraging, and uplifting accounts of the profession will encourage lawyers everywhere, and our counterparts in other professions, to remain in their professions and advance in their careers, deliberately. Although managing career advancement and life is not exclusive to women, *Her Story* focuses on the stories of successful and accomplished women who have managed these issues, have managed them well, and have successfully developed amazing careers along the way. We suspect you will find that these stories have a certain magic in them, and we are excited to be on this thrilling journey with you.

Please reach out to the ABA Litigation Section’s Woman Advocate Committee and let us know what you think after you read *Her Story*. We would really appreciate your feedback. Thank you.

Teresa M. Beck
Jacqueline Mecchella Bushwack
Shayna M. Steinfeld
Editors