

Rising Star: Morrison & Foerster's Jennifer Marines

Law360, New York (July 20, 2017, 4:07 PM EDT) - Morrison & Foerster LLP's Jennifer Marines has had a year of high-profile Chapter 11 cases, including helping Maxus Energy Corp. overcome \$12 billion in liabilities and preserving 400 jobs with a quick sale in the Sungevity bankruptcy, that have won her a second year as one of the bankruptcy law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

WHY SHE BECAME A BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY:

She said she particularly loves the variety of bankruptcy practice. Each case involves a company in a different industry with its own unique problems and allows her to play both the litigator and transactional lawyer, she said.

"The thing I love about my practice is it never gets stale," she said.

HER BIGGEST CASE:

While the year has seen her represent solar panel maker Sungevity in its \$185 million bankruptcy and the unsecured creditors in Peabody Energy Corp.'s bankruptcy, her biggest case was the bankruptcy of Maxus Energy, an oil and gas company owned by Argentina's state-run oil company YPF SA. Much of its \$12 billion in liabilities was tied to the cleanup of toxic waste sites, and Marines was forced to deal with the toxic legacy of a decadelong New Jersey court battle over liability to cleaning up the contamination of the Passaic River that involved both Maxus and many of its creditors

"There was a legacy of ill-will and distrust, not just between Maxus and the creditors but between and among the creditors themselves. It made all negotiations incredibly difficult," she said.

RISING
 ★★★★★
STAR



Jennifer Marines
Morrison & Foerster

Age: 36

Home base: New York

Position: Partner

Law school: Brooklyn Law School

First job after law school:
 Law clerk for U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York

HER MOTIVATION:

Besides the regard of her husband and three children, she said she's motivated by the other partners of her firm, particularly since bankruptcy law frequently involves working with partners from other practice areas.

"I want to support them, my group and the firm by doing a good job on my cases," she said.

ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS:

"The bankruptcy bar thrives on personal relationships," Marines said on the importance of networking. She is a member of the New York City Bar's Bankruptcy & Corporate Reorganization Committee and chairs the Women in Law subcommittee. She is also a part of the International Insolvency Institute's NextGen Leadership Program; a board member of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum; a member of the Turnaround Management Association NextGen Committee; and a member of the steering committee of the Zaretsky Roundtable Program.

She also said young attorneys should remember the law is a service business.

"What separates the successful lawyers from the rest is being someone who can see ways to make the client's life easier," she said. "You'd be surprised how many people don't think about that."

— *As told to Rick Archer*

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2017 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.

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