

How I Made It to Law Firm Leadership: 'Collaborate Genuinely and Lead Passionately,' Says Danielle Corcione of Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi

'I am honored to be part of an organization that is offering something different for women in the law, and I am proud that I know my worth and found a firm that values it.'

By Tasha Norman

Danielle M. Corcione, 41, Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi (CSG Law)

Job Title: Member, executive committee; practice group leader, government & corporate investigations group.

Law school and year of graduation: New York Law School, 2005.

How long were you a partner at the firm before being promoted to firm leadership? I joined CSG Law in June 2018 as a member. My service on the executive committee commenced January 2022.

Were there any surprises you faced after becoming a leader at the firm?

In many ways, I believe that being a mother (my most important job) during the pandemic helped to hone the type of leader I always wanted to be—specifically, one who leads by example and always shows up for her colleagues. The pandemic provided a true opportunity to share my personal parenting challenges and to normalize for my entire team the various hurdles we were all dealing with at home—be it laughing or crying in the background, alarms going off, other phones ringing or needing to answer the

front door. Showing up as my authentic self was welcomed by my team and created a richer connection among us.

What's been the biggest change, day to day, in your routine since becoming a leader at the firm? Since becoming a leader at the firm, my day to day consists of more than providing solutions to clients. Now I spend time planning and strategizing the firm's future with my partners, helping to navigate our way forward and ensuring we are properly positioned to sustain our steady growth.

What do you think was the deciding point for the firm in elevating you to your current position? CSG Law thrives on a spirit of collaboration and excellent legal work. In the past three-plus years, I have worked closely with junior and senior attorneys, led firm initiatives and supported and mentored colleagues. At the same time, I performed top legal work to the satisfaction of my clients and the growth of the firm. I think the deciding point was my ability to collaborate genuinely, lead passionately and satisfy clients at the highest levels.



Danielle Corcione

Courtesy Photo

What advice would you give to someone whose goal is to ascend to firm leadership? Always treat others with respect and kindness and jump in where you can add value. Be generous with your network, experience and invest in helping others succeed. Create opportunities, open doors and remain focused on the greater good of the firm. All while learning and perfecting your craft as an attorney.

Who had the greatest influence in your career that helped propel you to

your leadership role? I am fortunate to have always had amazing colleagues—many of whom became good friends—while in the trenches. I am particularly appreciative of all the women I have had the privilege to come up through the ranks with from law school, Big Law, the government and now at CSG Law.

Early in my career, Joe Armao, (retired) demanded and demonstrated excellence in the practice in law. Lisa Colone, Chief Counsel Department of Enforcement at FINRA, taught me that you care most about your career and that you need to own your own pen.

I've also been blessed to have women outside my organization provide invaluable advice and perspective. Karyn Polak, chief legal officer at Transamerica, Stacey Rappaport, Litigation Partner and Former member of Global Executive Committee, Milbank LLP and Fran Hauser, startup Investor, author, speaker and former media executive, have independently been steadfast champions encouraging me to always go for it before I felt ready, to ensure there is joy in my work and to remember that my kindness is my superpower.

Jeffrey Chiesa, with whom I work closely at CSG Law, has been a monumental influence – continuing and confirming the message that we as professionals can create space for both a satisfying career and a fulfilling personal life.

My husband has always supported my ambition. His partnership has been critical to my success.

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give to yourself? I'm the first person in my family to graduate from college and law school. I put myself through both, thanks to merit-based scholarships, student loans and working multiple jobs as a student.

I would tell my younger self that all the obstacles will be worth it. I would tell her to trust her intuition and to celebrate the spark in her that is deeply committed to being of service. I would encourage her to shine brightly because, by showing up authentically, she gives others permission to do the same. I would remind her to breathe and to appreciate each success she has earned along the way. I would tell her to set her boundaries early and prioritize her well-being. I would say thank you to her for being brave, taking chances and putting in all the work, because she is building a network of outstanding people and a career she cannot even imagine.

How do you keep your teams motivated during these unprecedented times? As a former assistant U.S. attorney and now as a white-collar litigator, one of my strengths is creating space for individuals and organizations when they are going through their worst moments. Clients hire me to help see them through to the other side. My practice requires navigating through the unprecedented.

Since March 2020, our team has been working remotely, many with the added responsibility of homeschooling children, dealing with isolation and caring for ill family members, which made meeting work



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obligations seem impossible at times. We checked in, and we asked how we can support one another. We encouraged vacations, exercise and any other form of a mental health breaks to help the teams sustain themselves. When members of the team excelled—and they did—time and time again, we made sure to amplify just how extraordinary their success was considering the never-ending list of competing demands. My hope is that my teams are motivated by a leadership that cares for their personal wellbeing just as much as their professional success.

What's an accomplishment that you are proudest of? I'm proud that I have embraced my ambitions to excel as a lawyer while simultaneously building a life I treasure out of the office. Serving on CSG Law's Executive Committee is the culmination of the career I've worked to build and, undoubtedly, the professional milestone of which I am most proud. I am honored to be part of an organization that is offering something different for women in the law. CSG Law's managing member Patricia Costello is a woman, 32% of our members are women, and 55% of the firm's practice group leaders are women. I am proud that I know my worth and found a firm that values it.