

G. Michelle Ferreira

San Francisco Office and Silicon Valley Office
Co-Managing Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

FIRM BRIEF Greenberg Traurig, LLP (gtlaw.com) has approximately 2100 attorneys in 41 locations in the United States, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The firm has been recognized for its philanthropic giving, diversity, and innovation, and is consistently among the largest firms in the U.S. on the Law360 400 and among the Top 20 on the Am Law Global 100.



G. Michelle Ferreira

Inspiring and supporting two offices of 56 attorneys and 38 business staff, Michelle Ferreira has distinguished herself as a “woman worth watching” through her leadership, professional achievements, community involvement, and commitment to diversity in the legal profession.

As Co-Managing Shareholder of Greenberg Traurig’s San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices, and a member of the firm’s Executive Committee, Ferreira focuses on delivering success for her clients, giving back to the Bay Area community, and inspiring others at Greenberg Traurig and beyond to do the same.

Ferreira counsels individuals, partnerships, estates and corporations in tax disputes with the Internal Revenue Service and state and local tax agencies, including the California Franchise Tax Board, the State Board of Equalization, the Employment Development Department and county assessment appeals boards.

Ferreira has 18 reported decisions in the U.S. Tax Court on issues such as unreported income, family limited partnerships, civil and criminal tax fraud, penalty assessments, statutes of limitation assertions, valuation disputes, controversies involving valuation discounts for lack of control and lack of marketability, tax shelters, hobby losses, complex real estate transactions, tax structured transactions, and unsubstantiated business expenses.

A former senior trial attorney with the Office of the Chief Counsel at the Internal Revenue Service, Ferreira has said that she joined Greenberg Traurig in 2004 in part because of its commitment to diversity and inclusion: “I saw an opportunity to grow into a shareholder, and a leader. I am female and a Latina and I wanted a firm that was led by others who were similar.”

Throughout her Greenberg Traurig career, she has developed a reputation as a mentor and leader, including to younger female attorneys. She is involved, for instance, in the firm’s award-winning Women’s Initiative, which focuses on fostering the success of women attorneys.

Her commitment to the advancement of women and diverse attorneys reaches beyond the firm as well. She is an active Board Member of the Bar Association of San Francisco’s Justice & Diversity Center, and speaks and writes frequently on the topic of diversity in law.

She has been named among “The Most Influential Women in the Bay Area,” by *San Francisco Business Times*, and the “World’s Leading Women in Business Law” by *Euromoney*, and was recently selected by *Profiles in Diversity Journal* among its 2019 “Women Worth Watching.”

Along with her career success, she is also proud of her family life and is the mother of a 21-year-old son. Her experience as such encourages women who value both their professional and family life, demonstrating it is possible to succeed in both.

Ferreira’s view on diversity in the legal profession includes having law firms show a commitment to diversity in the workplace by expanding relationships with like-minded organizations and clients, as well as by offering flexible work-life career paths, and working with diverse attorneys to help design and advance careers. Additionally, Ferreira notes that having women and other minority attorneys in positions of leadership shows to junior, diverse lawyers the firm’s commitment to diversity for staff, lawyers, firm vendors, and clients. ●

Shari L. Heyen

Co-Chair, Global Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice and
Houston Office Co-Managing Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP



Shari L. Heyen

Shari L. Heyen has been practicing law with a focus on high profile, complex restructuring and financial workout matters for approximately 30 years. Heyen has developed a niche in the energy industry and has played key roles in the restructurings and resolution of post-confirmation matters for multibillion-dollar issues.

Heyen is a strong advocate of diversity and although the restructuring and bankruptcy practice is a male-dominated industry, Heyen has not let that stop her from excelling in the field. At Greenberg Traurig, Heyen is a member of the firm’s Executive Committee and the firm’s Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. She has managed attorneys in

the firm’s restructuring practice for approximately 13 years. In August 2017, she was named Co-Managing Shareholder of Greenberg Traurig’s Houston Office (comprising of nearly 100 employees), where she is known for her strong leadership and as a role model for Greenberg Traurig’s collaborative culture. In August 2018, Heyen was named Co-Chair of the firm’s Global Restructuring and Bankruptcy practice – an internationally recognized practice with approximately 60 attorneys. Since 2015, she managed the firm’s Texas corporate reorganization practice, which primarily focuses on complex restructuring and bankruptcy proceedings in the energy industry.

She has consistently demonstrated professional competency resulting in repeated engagements in high-profile complex restructuring cases, both nationally and internationally. In one example of her leadership skills, she successfully managed a team of over 55 attorneys across the U.S. in connection with a multibillion-dollar complex oil and gas restructuring for a publicly-traded company. In another, she was part of an all-female pitch team that successfully won the engagement as committee counsel for the largest skilled nursing facility case in Texas – a first in most Texas markets.

In 2019, Heyen and her team won the Global M&A Network’s Turnaround Atlas Award for the “Chapter 11 Restructuring of the Year – Middle Markets,” as well as the “Turnaround of the Year,” and “U.S.A. Restructuring Law Firm of the Year” awards. The Turnaround Atlas awards recognize excellence within the worldwide restructuring and turnaround communities. Winning these awards equates to achieving the highest “Gold Standard of Performance” seal of endorsement in the local, regional and global markets, validating the team expertise and talents, as well as the organization’s competitive brand leadership position, according to the sponsoring Global M&A Network. Also in 2019, she received the Global M&A Award for Top USA Women Dealmakers.

Heyen is known as a thought leader in her industry. In addition to the honors she has received in her specific practice area, Heyen has been consistently named in a number of lists of top-notch attorneys as rated by their peers, including *Super Lawyers* (2004-2018) and *The Best Lawyers in America* (2010-2019).

With an eye on the future of the legal profession, Heyen is also involved in mentoring young associates and students throughout her career both inside and outside of Greenberg Traurig. Often, she is approached for advice by young associates on how to successfully navigate their legal careers. Heyen actively mentors rising stars at Greenberg Traurig. ●