Innovator of Securities, Financial Products Also Mentors High School Youth

Having decided that she wanted a career in the diplomatic corps, Anna Pinedo, ’93, went to the college that might best prepare her for that, Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, where she graduated in just three years.

It turned out, however, that she was destined to change the world in a different way. “I realized at Georgetown that I was not cut out to work in the foreign service,” she recalls. “I’m a chronically impatient person. I wanted a less hierarchical setting.” Since graduating from the Law School, she has been at the center of some of the most innovative securities transactions and structured new financial products, earning a lengthy list of awards and recognition.

In addition, she has written five books and a mountain of articles, book chapters, and other publications. Her most recent books are the 2012 Considerations for Foreign Banks Financing in the US and, from 2011, Liability Management: An Overview. She frequently leads workshops and seminars and participates extensively in ABA committees and subcommittees.

She began her career at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan where, at 29, she became the youngest partner in the firm’s history. In 2003, she and some colleagues relocated to Morrison & Foerster, where she now practices. At Morrison & Foerster, she continues to work with some of the country’s largest investment banks, representing them in securities offerings and working closely with them on product development. She also has been counseling many clients on regulatory matters arising from the Dodd-Frank Act, including new derivatives regulations.

Her clients include Bank of America Merrill, Barclays, Citigroup, HSBC, Nomura, and Royal Bank of Canada, and among her many honors she has been named as a leading international capital markets and derivatives lawyer by Chambers USA and Chambers Global in each of the last six years. Born in the US to Cuban émigrés, she has been named as one of the top 100 worldwide Hispanic leaders by Hispanic Business magazine.

Committed to her community and society, she makes time to volunteer for causes she values. She’s a winner of the Women of Power and Influence Award from the National Organization for Women. She lights up when talking about her work with students at Cristo Rey High School in Harlem, a college-preparatory school for minority students. Every student at Cristo Rey works full-time one day a week with a private company or nonprofit; their wages go toward their tuition at the private school. Five of them work at Morrison & Foerster. “It’s a wonderful program that provides a great education and also the benefit of seeing work settings that they wouldn’t otherwise be familiar with, so they are better prepared for college and for life,” she says.

The Law School, she says, provided her with “a phenomenal grounding in legal concepts, and a wonderfully stimulating, rigorous intellectual experience.” She names Douglas Baird, Randy Picker, Walter Blum, and Richard Helmholz as some of the professors whose classes were particularly memorable. “There’s a movement these days, even at some of the better law schools, to become more vocational,” she observes, “and I am very glad that Chicago is so committed to retaining its tradition of challenging inquiry and great discussions. The Socratic Method shaped my learning and still deeply affects my thinking today. Much of what I have accomplished is attributable to the great education I received.”

Mary Wilson is now Managing Partner of SNR Denton’s Chicago office. She continues her practice as a national finance, health care law, and tax-exempt organization lawyer. According to the firm’s website, Mary has received many accolades over the years, including being named one of the nation’s Outstanding Healthcare Transaction Lawyers by Nightingale’s Healthcare News.

“She is going well at Vida Capital,” reports Dan Young, “where I am General Counsel as well as President of the Registered Investment Adviser. On the home front, Meredith and I visited Napa for our 20th anniversary and had a great time. As for the kids, Sydney, our oldest, just received a full scholarship to play tennis at Quinnipiac College in Connecticut. Our middle, Ali, plays varsity tennis in high school and remains interested in computer programming. Our youngest, Drew, has joined the dance team. We added Bella to our mix of Ranger and Missy, and we now have three dogs.”

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Bob Bird reports: My book, The Observer, is now available at www.createspace.com/3980184, as well as at www.amazon.com [search: The Observer; R J Bird]. I think some of you might find it interesting; it has almost nothing to do with the Law. I’m currently at work on a final version of the sequel, The Overnight; coming soon. Cheers!

Dan Frank reports: In April, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Energy Bar Association.