

## Q&A With Foley & Lardner's Eileen Ridley

Law360, New York (May 13, 2011) -- Eileen R. Ridley is managing partner of Foley & Lardner LLP's San Francisco office and vice chairwoman of the firm's litigation department. She is also co-chairwoman of the firm's privacy litigation task force, co-chairwoman of the LGBTA affinity group, and a member of the firm's diversity committee, pro bono committee, and former member of the partner selection committee.

Ridley handles complex commercial matters for a variety of industries including the high-tech, oil and gas, telecommunications, construction, insurance and health care industries. Her work has involved antitrust and class actions, unfair competition, trade secret and copyright matters, product liability claims, environmental claims, insurance coverage litigation, ERISA litigation, employment issues and privacy matters.

Ridley is a former Emery Law Scholar and earned her J.D. from Santa Clara University Law School. She earned her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and has been selected for inclusion in the Northern California Super Lawyers lists for business litigation since 2008.

### **Q: What is the most challenging lawsuit you have worked on and why?**

A: Feather River Anesthesia Medical Group v. Fremont Rideout Health Group Inc., et al. (Sutter County, Calif.). This was the most challenging because it had very discreet antitrust issues coupled with a large volume of witnesses and documents. Thus, the sheer logistical management of the case was one challenge. In addition, the case was venued in Sutter County and another challenge was to describe a very complex competition matter to a jury pool and bench that typically did not handle such cases. This was made even more delicate given the small community involved in the case and the fact that the witnesses and entities were well known personally to both the bench and the public at large.

### **Q: Describe your trial preparation routine.**

A: I like to distill the case down to "hot documents" and critical witnesses and develop scripts for those witnesses (whether they are likely to be called by my opposition or in my case). These scripts are derived from the deposition testimony usually (although are sometimes created from scratch if the witness has not been deposed) and include references to documents. I find the scripts calm the witnesses and help to inform both the opening and closing arguments of the case.

**Q: Name a judge who keeps you on your toes and explain how.**

A: Justice Candace Cooper (Ret. — JAMS). Justice Cooper is currently serving as a discovery referee in a number of complex matters I'm handling. She is very smart and grasps complex issues quickly. She also has an impressive memory and ability to recall which results in very efficient and timely rulings. She requires that the attorneys know their case, their theories and how the discovery/evidence sought and adduced fits within those theories from very early in the case. She also focuses on the practical — particularly when dealing with production of voluminous evidence — which requires independent and creative problem solving in the context of discovery production.

**Q: Name a litigator you fear going up against in court and explain why.**

A: While I don't "fear" him, I respect Michael Bierman [Luce Forward Hamilton & Scripps LLP]. I tried a patent case against him and he made very technical issues easily understandable and had great jury appeal. He has a very easy way about him at trial.

**Q: Tell us about a mistake you made in your career and what you learned from it.**

A: In my first year of practice, I was trying a case and issued a trial subpoena with generalized document requests (trial subpoenas must have very specific requests). It resulted in a difficult fight to get the documents I needed to impeach a witness. I have never forgotten the detail required for trial subpoenas as a result. More importantly, it taught me to be very clear on procedural code requirements related to the work I'm performing and to double-check everything.