



MENU

Home > Award Program

NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW

TWEET SHARE SHARE EMAIL

NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW

In the board room and the court room, Crain's Notable Women in Law are seeking justice, setting precedent and managing high-profile cases for their corporate clients. They are mentors, champions and beacons of their community.

The honorees were selected by a team of Crain's Detroit Business editors based on their career accomplishments, track record of success in the field and mentorship of others, as outlined in a detailed nomination form.

Notable Women in Law was managed and written by Leslie D. Green. For questions about this special report, contact Amy Elliott Bragg at (313) 446-1646 or abragg@crain.com.

2021



Layne Sakwa

Partner

Fried Saperstein Sakwa PC



NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW 2021

NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW



ALL <PREV NEXT>

Layne Sakwa

Partner, Fried Saperstein Sakwa PC

[TWEET](#) [SHARE](#) [MORE](#) ▾

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Layne Sakwa, who has also represented politicians, athletes, entrepreneurs and domestic violence survivors, is a Category 1 on the Criminal Assignment Committee for Oakland County, meaning she is qualified to handle all life offenses.

In 2019, a few years after the U.S. Supreme Court required states to review cases of juveniles sentenced to mandatory life without parole, Sakwa was tasked with representing Sheldry Topp, the longest serving "juvenile lifer" in Michigan. Topp had been incarcerated for more than 56 years. After a three-day hearing, Sakwa was able to show he had been rehabilitated and secure his release.

"Layne Sakwa ... developed a reputation for diligence and excellence in the practice of law. She presently serves with me on the Oakland Circuit Court Criminal Assignment Committee, the Women Officials Network Foundation, and is co-leader of the upcoming Oakland County Bar Association Circuit Court Bench Bar Conference-Criminal Section," said Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Denise Langford Morris.