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The Upper Echelon

## The 50 Most Powerful Women in Los Angeles Law

## Stacy D. Phillips

MANNIS & PHILLIPS

Family law Columbia University School of Law, 1983

As a divorce lawyer to the wives of actor Jean-Claude Van Damme and rocker Axl Rose, much of Phillips' work takes place in the public spotlight. She herself has often appeared at the center of the media coverage.



"Everyone was watching me in the Van Damme

case," said Phillips, referring to her appearance on "Hard Copy" to talk about the high-profile divorce. That case was settled a Los Angeles Superior Court judge awarded Van Damme's ex-wife \$1.3 million a year in support – \$85,000 a month in spousal support and \$27,000 a month for the couple's 2-year-old son.

Given Phillips' client list, losing becomes difficult in more ways than one. "There's a certain amount of pressure when you represent someone who is well known," Phillips said.

She noted that it is often harder to gain the trust of a celebrity client – they often have a very small circle of confidantes – but when she does, the relationship means all the more. "They write me notes saying I made a difference in their lives," Phillips said.