

# Los Angeles Daily Journal

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

## TOP 75 WOMEN LITIGATORS

## Making Mentors

### Stacy D. Phillips

Los Angeles

**Place of birth:** Manhattan, N.Y.

**Law school:** Columbia Law School

**Law firm:** Phillips, Lerner, Lauzon & Jamra

**Practice area:** Family law

**Recent big case:** Representing the wife in a divorce from a husband who is a partner in a hedge fund operation that manages \$9.5 billion. His business portfolio spans an organizational chart 45 pages long. An offshore account, multiple trusts and insurance policies add to the case's complexity. Former clients include one-time professional baseball player Darryl Strawberry in a paternity suit and Erin Everly, ex-wife of Guns N' Roses singer Axl Rose, whom she sued for battery.

**People would be surprised to know that:** She had a catering business called Just Desserts in high school and college. Phillips considered going to cooking school before deciding to pursue a career in law.

**Mentor:** Phillips considers John "Jack" Quinn of Los Angeles' Arnold & Porter

and federal judge Edward Rafeedie as mentors. Phillips started her legal career as a clerk for Rafeedie. "I

believe I got my job with Judge Rafeedie because Jack wrote a letter [of recommendation]." Over the years, Quinn has referred clients to her and been there for her when she needed his counsel. "Everybody adores him. He's been a good friend. It's a very competitive town, and it's nice to have friends."

**Mentoring:** For firm co-counsel Grace A. Jamra, who became a name partner in August, Phillips let her know that it's OK to be assertive. She encouraged Jamra to develop her own clientele, sit on boards, give speeches and write articles.

— Eron Ben-Yehuda

