

Daily Journal

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TOPWOMEN LAWYERS

The Daily Journal's Annual List of
Leading Women Lawyers in California

Whitney Jones Roy

**Sheppard, Mullin, Richter
& Hampton LLP**

Los Angeles

Practice Type:
Litigation

Specialty:
Complex business, environment



Roy is among a crop of young leaders at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP — four years ago, at age 34, she became co-managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office.

Roy helps oversee more than 160 lawyers, splitting her time between administrative duties and litigation. She has to approve expense reports and train associates. She helps organize events that promote stronger bonds between senior

and junior lawyers.

"It's a pretty big job," she said. "There are a lot of different wheels turning."

Roy thinks she was picked because she sought leadership roles since her days as

a junior associate. She created the women's lawyer group at Sheppard Mullin.

"I think a firm's circle of leaders should be diverse, and I think retention of women and promotion of them is extremely important."

On top of her management duties, she tries cases. In August, Roy scored a partial summary judgment in favor of her client, ExxonMobil Corp., which is accused of contaminating groundwater in Merced County.

She convinced New York U.S. District Judge Shira A. Scheindlin that the statute of limitations barred all but one claim brought by the Merced County Redevelopment Agency. *Merced Redevelopment Agency v. Exxon Mobil Corp. et al.*, CV08-714 (E.D. Cal., filed May 21, 2008).

The case was remanded to an Eastern District court in Fresno, Roy's hometown. She likes trying cases there because her dad attends them.

"He was a high school debate coach, so he's always happy when he can come watch."

— Saul Sugarman