

Daily Journal
Top Women Litigators
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Robyn C. Crowther

Los Angeles
Law Firm: Caldwell Leslie & Proctor
Practice Area: Litigation
Years in Practice: 14
Law School: Georgetown University Law Center



The latter half of 2009 was a whirlwind experience for Robyn Crowther: Midway through the summer, three of her clients were forced out of a web advertising company they helped found by the controlling shareholder. Adding insult to injury, the controlling shareholder obtained an injunction to halt them from starting a competing company. In a multi-pronged strategy, Crowther persuaded an appellate court to stay the injunction while simultaneously initiating wrongful termination arbitration proceedings and filing a derivative shareholder lawsuit. All the while, she kept settlement negotiations open and reached a resolution by December that allowed the clients to proceed with their new competing business. For her next big case, Crowther is representing the clothing licensee of Los Angeles artist Shepard Fairey's clothing company in its controversial battle with the Associated Press over the ubiquitous red, white and blue 'Hope' picture of President Obama. Crowther's client sold T-shirts through its website and elsewhere with the picture that the AP claims infringes on their copyright. That case is likely headed for trial sometime in the next year.

Pretrial Ritual: "Before trial, I explain to my daughters - aged 6, 8 and 11 - why I'm going to win. If my 11-year old doesn't get it, I go back and retool."

Biggest Career Break: "I had a lot of people who put faith in me. Early in my career, there was a woman partner who convinced me to find a clerkship, and clerking revealed to me that I not only love litigation but that I'd probably be happiest at a smaller firm. I am grateful every day that I found my home at Caldwell Leslie & Proctor just two years out of law school."

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