

Rising Star: Weil, Gotshal's Megan Granger

By Bryan Koenig

Law360 (July 6, 2023, 9:05 AM EDT) – Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP's Megan Granger served a leading role in guiding Microsoft through the labyrinth of Activision merger scrutiny, right through still-pending government challenges, distinguishing her as one of the competition attorneys under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

Her biggest case:

Granger spoke to Law360 from a California conference room, huddled with the rest of the team representing Microsoft as the company defended its planned \$68.7 billion purchase of Activision Blizzard Inc. from a Federal Trade Commission merger challenge in a hearing that ran five days over the last two weeks of June.

Weil has served as global coordinating counsel for the deal, which has had to navigate reviews by more than a dozen international antitrust enforcers, striking a settlement with European Union officials while the FTC challenged the tie-up and the U.K.'s competition watchdog imposed a block on the transaction that's currently on appeal. All of this is occurring against a countdown ticking toward the deal's built-in July 18 deadline.

While Granger has helped oversee the global dimensions of mergers before, this was the first time she's done so in a lead role.

"Trying to get clearances to land within the outside date for 16 global regulators has been quite challenging. But also very strategically interesting," she said. "It's really pushed me professionally. And showed me how the different regulatory regimes differ around the world."

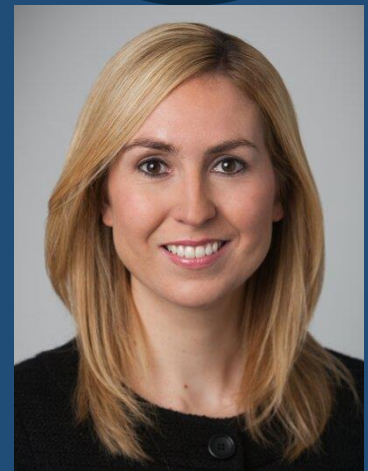
Her proudest moment:

For Granger, her daily drive comes from recognition from her peers and her clients, whether through compliments about her to other attorneys or recommendations to other clients.

"Those are definitely the proudest moments. When I really feel like I've

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Megan Granger

Weil

Age: 39

Home base: Washington, D.C.

Position: Partner

Law school: University of Virginia School of Law

First job after law school: Associate at Weil

delivered for the client," she said.

What motivates her:

Fully cognizant of just how expensive the billable hours run for high-stake mergers and acquisitions antitrust work, Granger is ever focused on delivering on that value to her clients.

"What motivates me is making sure the client has the best full service, at all times. Because these are truly make or break situations for their business," she said.

Why she chose antitrust:

Granger is drawn to antitrust law by the endless variety of businesses she gets to work with.

"It's the one area of law where you get to really understand the market, and the business, and the industry. And in order to make all the legal arguments, you have to really understand those facts," she said. "I don't really like reading cases. I don't like briefing. I don't like motion practice. I love understanding the business. And this is the area of law where I get to do that every day, and in a variety of different industries."

When it comes into diving into the businesses she represents, Granger takes the mandate literally.

"If I'm doing a case for Walgreens, I'm going to move my prescriptions over to Walgreens. Go to Walgreens and experience the consumer experience of Walgreens. That's sort of how I approach these types of cases and why I really like antitrust," she said.

On the future of her practice:

For all the technology changes worrying lawyers and other white collar professionals about their job prospects, Granger doesn't think artificial intelligence will change the profession or her practice area much over the next decade.

"The regulatory environment may continue to evolve," she said. But when it comes to daily practice, she said clients will continue to need M&A regulatory guidance.

"I don't think [AI] removes the need to have a large team of associates to support all these filings around the world. I think that'll stay the same," she said, noting that attorneys form a collective experience and wisdom over time. "I just don't really think, fundamentally, that that aspect of our practice will change."

--As told to Bryan Koenig.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2023 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of May 1, 2023, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.