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40 UNDER 40

GCR'S GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S BEST YOUNG ANTITRUST LAWYERS

Margaret D'Amico

38, partner at Cravath Swaine & Moore in New York

I was a summer associate at Cravath in 2007 and joined the firm in 2008, after graduating from Harvard Law School. When I first joined Cravath as a litigation associate, I didn't know much about competition law. Cravath's associate rotation system is founded on the idea that generalist training is key to effectively representing clients, so I was able to work in a variety of different litigation



practice areas before rotating to work with antitrust practice chair Christine Varney. That led me to understand what makes this practice area dynamic, and ultimately, the area in which I wanted to focus my career.

I wish I had known how fun it was going to be! I did not know much about the practice of competition law until I started doing it, and learned through some pretty amazing experiences. It's not only a fascinating area of the law that requires you to really understand all sorts of different industries, but it's a very interesting community of practitioners, in-house counsel and regulators – it has been so interesting getting to know that community as well.

Antitrust spans every kind of industry imaginable and is affected by a host of different outside factors – from the client's business model, to the ever-shifting regulatory regimes in charge and their approaches, to cross-border considerations and more. That means the work is never the same.

As a Cravath partner, I think I'm in an extraordinary position to keep learning and expanding my practice. I have so many colleagues with decades of experience at the top of the legal profession who retain an open mindset toward evolving and continuing to build their skill sets. I think that's an invigorating approach to take and one that's necessary to enjoy your career and effectively represent your clients. Retaining that mindset at 50 and beyond is my goal.

I would suggest it's important to be willing to take on as many challenges as possible, especially when it means learning or trying something new. Cravath gave me the opportunity to take on different responsibilities and work under partners who are not only invested in their work, but in the professional development of the

associates. In order to take full advantage of that, you need to take full ownership of every opportunity in front of you.

On a deserted island? A notebook and pencil, a radio (assuming I can get a signal for some music) and a big pair of sunglasses.

CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP