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LAW FIRM BUSINESS

'Modern' lawyer to lead women's group

Tanya Forsheit left Proskauer to start her own practice. She's now president of WLALA

By Susan McRae
Daily Journal Staff Writer

Tanya L. Forsheit will draw on her personal and professional experiences as a wife, mother and former big firm partner who launched her own boutique practice when she takes over Wednesday as president of Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

A founding partner of the nine-lawyer InfoLawGroup LLP, a virtual firm that focuses on Internet security and privacy, Forsheit will succeed Angela S. Haskins, a litigator at Baker, Keener & Nabra LLP.

The installation dinner will be at the downtown Los Angeles Millennium Biltmore Hotel.

Forsheit said that during her one-year term, she wants to expand the role of women in the industry. "I still see women in large firms going in the wrong direction," Forsheit said of the difficulties women have in reaching the higher ranks, particularly at large firms. "I want to reverse that trend and... get them

into leadership positions where they have more power and influence."

Forsheit, 39, said she'll continue work on WLALA's joint task force with Los Angeles County Bar Association aimed at retaining and promoting women in the legal profession.

She'll also oversee WLALA's work on diversity through its program of power lunches in conjunction with the Superior Court. The program

lawyer."

"Tanya is responsible for her own success and has what it takes to achieve happiness both professionally and personally," said Kahn, a partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP.

A graduate of University of Pennsylvania Law School, Forsheit was a litigator and chairwoman of the Los Angeles office of Proskauer Rose LLP's Privacy and Data Security practice group before forming In-



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encourages school children to take an early interest in the law by inviting them to attend court sessions around the county and to meet with the lawyers and judges.

"A key part in getting people into the [diversity] pipeline is to convince young people to become lawyers," Forsheit said. "Our legal profession so desperately needs to be more diverse than it is today."

WLALA president-elect Ruth Kahn, who has worked with Forsheit on the joint task force, called her the "epitome of the modern, successful

foLawGroup LLP in 2009 with two other partners.

The firm has since grown to six partners and three of counsels working out of offices around the country and connected virtually, advising clients from multinationals to startups on all aspects of privacy and data security compliance. Forsheit, whose office is in Manhattan Beach, also negotiates cloud computing arrangements on behalf of enterprise customers; has advised on responding to dozens of data security breaches; and repre-

sents organizations in Federal Trade Commission investigations. She's a frequent writer and speaker on security information issues.

As WLALA president, Forsheit concedes she'll be juggling a lot of jobs but said she's confident that with the support of colleagues, family and fellow WLALA members, she'll be up to the task.

"More than anything," said Haskins, "the one thing I can say [about Forsheit] is that I will have complete and utter confidence in handing the reins over to her, and I know she is going to do an amazing job."

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