

TOP WOMEN IN THE LAW

Abbey True Harris, Esq.

Abbey True Harris is director of legal affairs and complex litigation at insurer NJ PURE.

What do you see as your biggest accomplishments over the past two years, and why?

Establishing and expanding our legal advocacy group tops the list. I continue to build a team of full- and part-time attorneys with diverse legal backgrounds. We have the unique privilege to not only work on interesting projects but also to see the real-life impact of giving our insureds a louder voice. I am particularly proud of our efforts to shield health care providers from liability during the COVID pandemic and ensure that the Affidavit of Merit Act safeguards remain strong to protect licensed professionals.

What does the legal profession need to do to improve opportunities for women?

We need to usher greater flexibility into the workplace, rethinking the traditional norms of when and where business is conducted. Employers now recognize that this dynamic actually improves outcomes, job satisfaction and career growth, especially for women.

Also, in large and small organizations, committees that oversee hiring, advancement and compensation must include women. Often, women are faced with decisions about starting a family or caring for a parent. Ensuring that women have direct input in writing and implementing policies that guide career and life choices improves opportunities for employees and businesses alike.

Best advice you ever got...

I am lucky to have amazingly supportive parents. They taught my brothers and me, in words and actions, “Where there is love, nothing is too much trouble, and there is always time.” I strive to follow that advice each day.

Professionally, my mentor and first boss, New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Virginia Long, shared, “Stop waiting for your real life to start. This IS your real life. All you have is today.” Those words struck me. Leaning on that guidance, I decided to make a major career move, even with an infant and two toddlers, and joined my local school board while juggling a new job and young family. In my personal life, I started doing things, however small, that I always “planned” to do “someday”—run mock trials in my kids’ elementary



school, try new recipes, join a different gym, travel with my husband and family, and plan fun events with friends. I try to live in and seize the moment.

