

## Rising Star: Fenwick's Jennifer Hitchcock

By Mike LaSusa

*Law360 (June 28, 2022, 5:38 PM EDT)* -- Fenwick & West LLP partner Jennifer Hitchcock has helped guide major transactions involving companies across a range of industries such as technology, life sciences and banking, earning her a spot on this year's list of capital markets practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### **HER BIGGEST RECENT DEAL:**

Hitchcock helped Coinbase become the first major U.S. cryptocurrency startup to go public with a direct listing last year. The process included some novel legal aspects, like working with the company to host an "ask me anything" forum on the social media site Reddit, Hitchcock said.

"We had to work with the company and [the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission] to make sure that would be SEC-compliant," she said.

What's more, the deal vaulted the crypto industry further into the spotlight, helping it garner mainstream recognition and legitimacy, Hitchcock said.

"It was kind of a watershed moment for the entire crypto industry," she said.

### **WHY SHE CHOSE CAPITAL MARKETS LAW:**

Hitchcock said she got into capital markets law because she enjoys the collaborative nature of the work and how it lends itself to building long-lasting relationships.

Cooperation with colleagues can even extend beyond working together on a particular deal, Hitchcock said.

"Even outside of a transaction, I often find that lawyers from other firms or bankers are more than happy to consult and brainstorm on novel issues," she said.

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**RISING  
STAR**



**Jennifer Hitchcock**  
Fenwick & West

**Age:** 38

**Home base:** Mountain View, Calif.

**Position:** Partner

**Law school:** University of California, Berkeley School of Law

**First job after law school:** Associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Those relationships come in handy when trying to come up with creative ways to comply with complex regulatory regimes, Hitchcock said.

"If you reach out and you brainstorm with other people, you will come to an answer," she said.

**WHAT MOTIVATES HER:**

Helping clients reach their goals is what drives Hitchcock to do her best work. She said one of her favorite events is the first day of trading after a company goes public.

"It's really rewarding to see all the hard work and late nights that the whole working group put in over months and months accumulate into this first day," Hitchcock said.

She's also motivated by the talent and spirit of the people she works with. Some of her best friends are colleagues with whom she's hammered out high-stakes deals, Hitchcock said.

"There's nothing like a little or a lot of sleep deprivation to help folks become very authentic," she said.

**WHAT SHE'S WATCHING FOR:**

Hitchcock said she expects a greater focus in coming years on environmental, social and governance factors.

Investors have ramped up their focus on ESG initiatives and disclosures in recent years. And in recent months, the SEC has issued a series of regulations pertaining to those issues.

While the capital markets space is constantly evolving and often difficult to predict, Hitchcock said she expects advising on ESG issues to continue to make up a bigger part of her practice.

"I suspect that over time we'll continue to see a lot of new rulemaking from the SEC," she said.

— *As told to Mike LaSusa*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2022 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2022, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.*