

# WOMEN LEADERS IN LAW



## Ingrid Evans

Founding Partner  
The Evans Law Firm  
San Francisco

**T**he plaintiffs lawyer with her own firm has long been active with trial lawyer bar groups. Four years ago, she launched a “women’s caucus” of the Consumer Attorneys of California. It now has 1,000 members and holds monthly networking events around the state. Evans says the caucus has boosted the number of women active in the state’s trial bar by 25 percent. She also started the Class Action Litigation Group for the American Association for Justice in 2009, which now has more than 250 members.

**Something people would be surprised to know about you?**

I have an FCC license to be on the radio and was a disc jockey on the radio when I was in college.

**Best advice someone has given you?**  
Luck is self-made.

**Who would play you in a movie?**  
Meryl Streep.

**Pet peeves?**  
Laziness and tardiness.

**Current goal?**  
American Board of Trial Advocates. I am only about one trial away from having enough trials to be an applicant.

**How do you like to unwind?**  
I love to travel, jog and hike. Mt. Tamalpais is a great local place to get a few hours away.

**Networking tip?**  
Always try to meet one quality new con-

nection at each event you attend. You will only be a good networker if you really enjoy it yourself

**Guilty pleasure?**  
Reality TV.

**Treadmill or trails?**  
Trails, I actually hiked to base camp on Mt. Everest several years ago (19,000 feet).

**“Damages” or “Law & Order”?**  
Neither, I love the “Erin Brockovich”-type movies that show real-life legal struggles and accomplishments.

**What drives you?**  
I love meeting new, interesting and accomplished people so conventions and business events are really a guilty pleasure for me.



**A**s the head of a nonprofit law firm, Farrell’s networking is of a different sort than your typical law firm partner, but mobilizing support in the way of time commitments and money from the legal community is a key part of her job. “Watching her in action at the annual ERA fundraising lunch was to witness a consummate networker in action,” her nominator says. With more than 800 attendees at the event, it was ERA’s most successful to date.

**What’s something people would be surprised to know about you?**

I am a Type A personality who frequently fakes a Type B.

**Best advice someone has given you?**  
Your soul needs to be fed for your work to

Those who don’t take seriously enough what they should and those who take too seriously what they shouldn’t.

**Current goal?**  
Making civil rights a reality for more women and girls, regardless of their race, immigration status, sexual orientation or income.

**Role model?**  
[2011 Women Leader in Law honoree] Nancy Davis was one of the founders of Equal Rights Advocates who is now a San Francisco Superior Court judge. Her organizational vision, passion for social justice, and fierce intellect is an inspiration to me and to many women lawyers for whom she paved the way. I have her photo on my desk at work.

ing them, especially for those of us in the social justice movement. Treat every introduction as an opportunity to meet someone who could be a partner in your work, or who could at least teach you something you should know. That mindset will help you remember, keep and leverage your contacts.

**Handshakes or air kisses?**  
Have warmth in your greetings, whatever the form.

**How have you built your network? What drives you?**

As much as we often close the door and spend hours on briefs, the law cannot be detached from the people it serves. Building community is essential to achieve social justice — with allies, with opponents, with influencers and, most importantly, with th