

2025

ENTERPRISING WOMEN OF THE YEAR

MARIE MATHEWS

By Jamie Grill-Goodman

Marie Mathews, *Commerce's* 2025 Entering Woman of the Year, notes that women in the law industry tend to be underestimated but views this as an opportunity rather than a hardship.

Case in point, Mathews received the annual top honor at the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey's (CIANJ) 5th annual Entering Women in Commerce awards ceremony in August.

Mathews was named Managing Member of Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC (CSG Law) earlier this year, charging her with the strategic growth and oversight of CSG Law's 200 attorneys and 150 other professionals between the firm's Roseland headquarters and its midtown Manhattan office.

She previously served in a variety of management roles at the firm, including as Practice Group Leader of the Litigation Group and Deputy General Counsel, and started out as an associate at the firm in 2011 following an eight-year stint in "big law" in New York.

In her spare time, she serves as the President of the Greater Newark Holiday Fund, a charity which has contributed more than \$12 million toward the betterment of thousands of families in the Garden State.

Commerce sat down with Mathews to learn more about her career path, the challenges facing women in law, and her advice to the next generation of female leaders.

Jamie Grill Goodman: *What has the transition into your new role been like, and what are your top priorities as you lead the firm forward?*

Marie Mathews: Transitioning into the role of Managing Member at CSG Law has been both energizing and challenging. One of the most noticeable shifts has been the increased public-facing nature of the role. It's pushed me outside of my comfort zone in meaningful ways—whether that's representing

the firm externally, engaging with clients and community partners, or speaking on behalf of our values and vision. While it's a stretch from my previous day-to-day, it's also been a powerful opportunity for growth.

My top priorities center around strengthening our culture of collaboration, innovation, and client service. I'm focused on ensuring that our attorneys and legal professionals have the resources and support they need to thrive, while also expanding our strategic initiatives to meet the evolving needs of our clients. That includes investing in talent development, enhancing our technology platforms, and deepening our commitment to equity and opportunity across the firm.

Grill Goodman: *What is your approach to leading such a large and diverse team?*



Mathews: My approach is rooted in clear communication, trust, and a shared sense of purpose. I try to prioritize transparency and accessibility. Whether through regular check-ins, town halls, or informal conversations, I want our team to feel that I am approachable and responsive.

Grill Goodman: *What inspired you to pursue your current career path and how have your previous leadership roles within CSG Law helped prepare you for this next chapter?*

Mathews: My professional journey began at a “big law” firm in NYC where I gained invaluable experience. But I always knew that I wanted to transition to practice in my home state of New Jersey, which led me to CSG as an associate. Over the years, I’ve had the privilege of growing within the organization—first as an associate, then as a partner, and later as Associate General Counsel and Practice Group Leader for Commercial Litigation. Each role gave me a deeper understanding of the firm’s operations, culture, and values. I hope the path I have taken demonstrates to young lawyers that their goals are possible at CSG Law.

Grill Goodman: *What does being named the 2025 Enterprising Woman of the Year mean to you—particularly as a woman leading one of New Jersey’s most prominent law firms?*

Mathews: Being named the 2025 Enterprising Woman of the Year is an incredible honor, and one that I accept with gratitude and humility. Leading CSG Law is a privilege and a responsibility. We have a rich legacy and a bright future, and I’m honored to help

shape the next chapter. Throughout my career, I’ve been fortunate to work alongside exceptional professionals who’ve inspired and challenged me. This award is a reflection of the collective effort and support of the team around me.

Grill Goodman: *What unique challenges have you faced as a woman rising through the ranks in the legal field and how have you navigated them?*

Mathews: I believe that the challenges I have faced are somewhat universal to young women in the profession. We tend to be underestimated, which is an opportunity rather than a hardship. I have navigated that by committing to preparation, which in turn ensures confidence. Demonstrating competence consistently and without hesitation makes it much more difficult for others to discount your contributions.

Grill Goodman: *The Enterprising Women in Commerce Awards include “One to Watch” honorees. What advice do you have for those females earlier in their career journeys?*

Mathews: The legal profession, as well as other industries, can be demanding and sometimes slow to change, but your voice and perspective matter. Don’t wait to be invited to the table; pull up a chair and contribute with confidence.

Seek out mentors and sponsors who will advocate for you, and don’t be afraid to ask for guidance or support. Build relationships and be open to challenges—even when it means stepping outside your comfort zone. Some of the most rewarding opportunities come from taking risks.



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