



**2024 Women in CRE: Krista Patterson, Robinson & Cole LLP**

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What are the most important factors young women should consider when choosing a firm to build their career with?

Young women (and men, who should also be focused on gender equality) should look for firms with established female leadership and formal and informal mentorship programs that take gender-specific concerns into account. Most firms pay lip service to diversity and equality, but young attorneys should seek out firms putting these ideals into practice. There are many methods by which young attorneys can ascertain whether firms take their commitment to diversity and equality seriously, and one of the ways Robinson & Cole LLP has demonstrated the gravity of its commitment to these issues is by maintaining Mansfield Certification-Plus.

Who inspires you most? What qualities do they possess that inspire you?

I am continually inspired by Rhonda Tobin, the managing partner of my firm, Robinson & Cole LLP. In addition to developing her own successful practice, she has taken on law firm leadership with aplomb. Rhonda is herself an example of R+C's commitment to diversity and equality, and she also exemplifies this commitment in carrying out her management responsibilities. She has blazed the trail and readily supports those of us who follow in her footsteps.

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