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# RISING STARS

★ of 2016





**Michelle W. Cohen**  
**Partner**  
**Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler**

ONE OF THE MOST fascinating aspects of the law, Michelle W. Cohen says,

is the window it provides on the world of commerce.

In 10 years with Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, Michelle has peered into the workings of the candy and construction industries and become an expert on legal aspects of data protection.

She has represented The Hershey Company in multiple cases. One was a trademark battle involving a suit by Mars and a countersuit by Hershey over the latter's Maltesers candy. The second was a successful defense of Hershey in a proposed class-action suit claiming that certain Hershey products were misbranded.

Michelle, 39, said she "grew up as a lawyer" with her successful defense of McGraw Hill against Reed Construction Data. Reed's charges included corporate espionage and false advertising, specifically that McGraw Hill improperly accessed Reed's website, which provided information on construction projects, and created false and misleading comparisons of the parties' services.

The case, which began in 2009, was decided for McGraw-Hill by the Second Circuit this past January. In between, there were extensive documents and

written discoveries, 70 depositions, two motions to dismiss, a motion for summary judgment, an appeal—and for Michelle, the birth of two children.

**Even if the underlying legal issues are the same—false advertising, data security—the business involved and how we approach those legal issues are different.**

#### **Pro Bono/Civic Activity**

Michelle is active in Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler pro bono matters. For example, through The Children's Project, the firm assists families at Metropolitan Hospital in East Harlem who have health problems related to housing conditions; at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, it helps tenants remain in their homes; and its work with Advocates for Children guides parents of children with special needs in navigating city Department of Education to obtain needed services.

#### **Experience**

- Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, partner 2013-present; associate 2006-2012
- Clerk for Southern District Judge Louis Stanton, 2004-2006.

#### **Education**

- J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, 2004
- B.A., University of Wisconsin, 1999

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