

# Daily Journal

OCTOBER 9, 2024



## TOP TRADE SECRETS LAWYERS 2024

### Ilissa Samplin



**Gibson, Dunn &  
Crutcher LLP**  
LOS ANGELES

One of Ilissa Samplin's most significant recent victories came in a trade secrets case involving HSBC and First Citizens Bank. First Citizens alleged that HSBC misappropriated trade secrets and improperly solicited employees following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. The case involved \$1 bil-

lion in damages, and the partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP played a crucial role in narrowing the scope of the case.

Through successful motion practice and oral argument, she persuaded the court to dismiss numerous claims and defendants, drastically reducing the case's complexity. The court even echoed Gibson Dunn's argument that the situation reflected a failed bank with employees moving to a better opportunity, rather than a nefarious scheme to steal trade secrets.

Another key victory came in Samplin's defense of Oath Holdings, a subsidiary of Verizon. She led the team that secured a complete dismissal of trade secrets misappropriation claims at the pleadings stage, a rare and difficult achievement in such cases. The court agreed with Samplin's argument that the plaintiff had failed to adequately plead possession of a trade secret and did not take reasonable measures to protect it, marking a significant legal precedent.

Samplin is currently engaged in several high-profile cases, including representing Swan Bitcoin in a trade secrets dispute and Applied Materials

in a case against competitor Mattson. As she continues to navigate these complex matters, she remains focused on the evolving trends in trade secrets law.

Samplin said there is an increasing demand for plaintiffs to define their trade secrets with particularity, especially in California courts. She also noted a rise in international trade secret disputes, with courts taking a broader view of the Defend Trade Secrets Act's extraterritorial reach.

Despite the challenges, Samplin said her approach to litigation — being reasonable, credible and attentive to the court's guidance — has consistently delivered favorable outcomes for her clients. She attributed her approach to her mentors, Gibson Dunn partners Orin Snyder and Scott Edelman, both of whom played pivotal roles in shaping her career. Snyder taught her the nuances of cross and redirect examination, while Edelman helped her develop case and trial themes. Most importantly, she said they encouraged her to find her own voice as a lawyer, a lesson she carries with her today.