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**The Women of Phillips,
Lerner, Lauzon & Jamra**
Balancing Careers with Family Life

**Why Deborah Chang
Switched Sides**

LAURA GIANNI

While everybody is at risk of becoming a victim due to dangerous drugs, medical malpractice, or employment discrimination, Laura Gianni realized that much of the suffering caused by unsafe drugs and medical devices (such as the birth control patches, diet drugs, and hormone replacement therapy) was borne solely by women. The proportion of these issues affecting women was one of the reasons Ms. Gianni first began pursuing pharmaceutical products litigation, and she has developed significant expertise in this area. In 2004, she founded Gianni-Petoyan with partner Marcus Petoyan. Since then, the firm has achieved multiple multimillion-dollar settlements for individuals seeking compensation in cases involving pharmaceutical companies, medical malpractice, employment discrimination, and serious or catastrophic injury cases.

Though their aggressive approach and significant experience in going up against powerful companies are obviously appealing traits, it is the firm members' ability to place themselves in their clients' shoes that allows them to most effectively represent men and women alike. Gianni-Petoyan operates under the constant awareness that the most difficult part of any lawsuit for their clients is the unexpected emotional and financial devastation following a severe injury. "I hear from almost every client, 'I'm not the kind of person who sues other people.' They know they're never going to get their health back or be put in the position they were before they suffered their injury or lost their job, and they can't believe how much they end up relying on the protection of being able to file a lawsuit," says Ms. Gianni.

Ms. Gianni and Mr. Petoyan's motivations are so evidently in the right place that a good deal of their referrals come from attorneys they've come up against in previous cases, who have suddenly found themselves or a loved one in an unfortunate situation of their own. Not only are they seeking compensation and justice for their clients, but they're looking to save further individuals from the same fate. "We all need the protection of the civil justice system to have the appropriate mechanism in place to compensate people for their injuries," says Ms. Gianni.



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Laura Gianni

AMY CANTRELL

GIANNI ♦ PETOYAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

17383 Sunset Boulevard, Suite A200
 Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
 Tel: 310.230.6767 Fax 310.230.6051

www.giannipetoyanlaw.com



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