

Diane Bissonnette Moes

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Diane Bissonnette Moes ascribes to the idea that it is one thing to be a mentor and another to be a sponsor, a concept one of her own sponsors shared in what she calls "a really enlightening moment." Lots of lawyers will sit down for a half hour, offer some advice to a young attorney and call themselves a mentor.

"But a sponsor says, 'Come with me,'" she explains, taking the younger lawyer along on business meetings or to court, or making calls on their behalf to get them involved in a civic association.

"It's sticking your neck out for the people you believe in," she says.

Moes abides by that distinction in her own efforts to guide the next generation of lawyers, both at her own firm and during her eight years as an adjunct professor at her alma mater, Suffolk University Law School. Part of her desire to be a sponsor comes from her own experience going to law school after having spent several years in the health care industry — both as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. and vice president of a hospital — and entering law practice as a

first-year associate at age 36.

"It was a very humbling experience," Moes admits.

When she entered the law, she stuck with what she knew best: health care. Today, she counsels health law clients ranging from hospitals to physician practices and provider networks to vendors.

When not practicing, networking or sponsoring, Moes gives back to her community.

A member of the Boston Bar Association Health Law Steering Committee

and the leadership council of the Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology, she formerly served on the board of UMass Memorial Health Care, the Health Alliance Hospital and the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees. She recently joined the board of Community Servings, an organization that prepares and delivers more than 9,000 meals each week to individuals homebound with serious illnesses. **MLW**

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