

Rising Star: Stradley Ronon's Anastasia C. Sheffler-Wood

By Mike Curley

Law360 (July 9, 2021, 3:04 PM EDT) -- Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP's Anastasia Sheffler-Wood has shepherded some of the biggest transportation companies on the New York Stock Exchange through yearslong, multimillion-dollar acquisitions, including Triumph Group Inc. and PennEngineering as they expanded their portfolios and global reach, earning her a spot as one of the top transportation attorneys under age 40 honored as Law360 Rising Stars.

HER BIGGEST DEAL:

Sheffler-Wood said that the biggest project she's tackled thus far in her career has been her work with aerospace company Triumph Group, which she described as a string of deals over the last five years in a "transformative action plan" to alter its portfolio.

She worked on one transaction after another, creating systemic change for a client with deals in which complex contractual arrangements had to be untangled. They also involved negotiations with some of the biggest players in the industry.

"It can be a challenge to engage in some of those negotiations successfully to actually get the deal done," she said. "Through the course of working on those deals, Triumph also underwent a change in CEO and a change of general counsel, so to be able to advise before and after that change in C-suite leadership to be able to help the company during this transformation plan was probably the biggest project for me and the most meaningful."

And the deal is ongoing, so even now, she continues to work on the Triumph package, she said.

HER MOST INTERESTING RECENT DEAL:

Another ongoing chain of deals — this time for PennEngineering, a global leader in automotive and aircraft fastener technology — has seen Sheffler-Wood working on a set of acquisitions as part of the company's strategic growth plan, the with aim of bringing in new



**Anastasia C. Sheffler-
Wood**
Stradley Ronon

Age: 39

Home base: Philadelphia

Position: Partner

Law school: Temple University's
Beasley School of Law

First job after law school:

Associate at Stradley Ronon

product lines and expanding into Asia.

"I had the opportunity to actually work and oversee a team of lawyers from various firms globally, to rework and overhaul some of PennEngineering's commercial forms that they use worldwide," she said. "So really, again, the whole supply chain, soup to nuts."

She added that this deal was particularly meaningful for her because it has allowed her to be involved long-term on projects that expand her client's business in a significant way, both in terms of technology and geography.

Breaking into global markets and navigating legal requirements throughout the world has presented a challenge, she said, particularly in China, where the laws are very different and present a bigger hurdle than breaking into Europe.

HER PROUDEST MOMENT:

While Sheffler-Wood can't count just one moment as her proudest, she said that it's particularly fulfilling every time she gets to close a deal for one of her clients, as each deal presents new and interesting challenges for her to overcome.

"No two deals are the same," she said. "There's always a unique challenge, so whenever I get a deal across the finish line with my client, it's always such a satisfying feeling. It never gets old."

WHY SHE'S A TRANSPORTATION ATTORNEY:

Sheffler-Wood said that her career gradually headed toward the transportation field, as she started as a more general corporate and mergers and acquisitions-focused attorney while she was an associate. But as she took on cases in the transportation space, she started to develop expertise in the area.

She said she had opportunities early in her career that gave her experience and allowed her to develop a reputation in the transportation space that allowed her to seek new clients. As time went by, mergers and acquisitions became less of its own specific field, as clients began to look for attorneys with a particular expertise within their industries.

That expertise helped her when she became a partner and bringing in new business became part of her job description.

"It was a great springboard, to bring in that additional business, to have the depth of experience in this industry," she said.

HOW SHE THINKS HER PRACTICE WILL CHANGE:

Looking ahead, Sheffler-Wood foresees a focus on innovation concerning green and environmental technologies in the transportation space, and her clients in acquisition mode will be looking more closely at companies that deal with that kind of technology.

She added that her upstream clients will also need to think about this as well and consider how their products will fit into a final green tech product.

"Both the upstream product developers themselves and also those who are looking to acquire and expand their portfolio will be looking for ... green transport and environmentally friendly technology," she said.

— As told to Mike Curley

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2021 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,400 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2021, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.

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