Top 100 Lawyers 2025

Megan O'Neill

DTO Law

Silicon Valley

Los Angeles

In high school, Megan O'Neill dreamed of being a professional dancer or broadcast journalist. But a candlelight vigil at a women's shelter during her first month of college changed everything.

"That night, after what I saw and how I felt, I knew I needed to be in an advocacy role of some sort," O'Neill said. The experience led to her co-founding DTO Law in 2019, where she leads complex cases for Fortune 500 companies and is the firm's Chair of Litigation.

O'Neill spent her college years immersed in advocacy work, running her school's feminist group, starting a rape counselor training program, and working as a sexual abuse counselor. In law school, she represented domestic violence victims seeking court protection.

"I'll never forget the first time I stood up in court to speak," O'Neill said. "In that moment, I knew I was doing exactly what I was meant to do."

After graduating from Stanford Law and clerking on the Third Circuit, she spent more than a decade at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP. O'Neill then took a three-year hiatus from litigation to develop an app, only to realize she missed litigation, especially written and oral advocacy. When she pivoted back to the law, she was surprised she faced headwinds. But not with Will Delgado, who knew of Megan's talent and tenacity from their early years at Quinn Emanuel. Delgado hired her at the boutique firm he managed and trusted her to run his thorniest matters. Soon she had developed her own book of business.

"I learned you don't necessarily need someone to lift you up," O'Neill said. "You just need someone to leave a ladder out for you."

From that point on, as the saying goes, "the rest is history." Megan co-founded DTO with Delgado and Mark Tarango in 2019. The firm, which now has twenty-two lawyers and offices in Los Angeles, Silicon Valley, and New York, handles high-stakes litigation for major corporations and high net worth individuals.

O'Neill's recent victories include defeating class action claims against HP Inc. over printer cartridge compatibility, *So v. HP*, 5:22-cv-02327 (N.D. Cal., filed April 14, 2022), and successfully defending Onnit Labs (a Unilever subsidiary) in a false advertising case regarding Alpha Brain, a cognitive supplement. *Martin v. Onnit Labs Inc.*, 2:23-cv-03737 (C.D. Cal., filed May 16, 2023).

O'Neill also achieved a significant win in another putative class action, securing the dismissal of slack-fill claims against General Mills. *Cantu v. General Mills*, 2:24-cv-10664 (C.D. Cal., filed Dec. 11, 2024).

In another recent win, her team defeated wiretapping claims against greeting card company Postable under California privacy law CIPA. *Heiting v. Postable LLC*, 23STCV-28124 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Nov. 16, 2023).

O'Neill specializes in class action defense, where she faces unique challenges. "Because about two-thirds of my cases are class actions, in which I am always on the defense side, the main obstacle I face is the case law itself," she said. Unlike commercial litigation where parties stand on equal footing, class action defendants face an uphill battle at every stage while confronting enormous financial risk if certification occurs, O'Neill said.

Despite her success in corporate litigation, O'Neill maintains connections to her advocacy roots. "I hope someday to have more time to work on the types of cases that first drew me to the profession—that's a personal goal of mine."