



## Marilou E. Watson

Partner

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Marilou focuses her practice on all aspects of intellectual property law.

She places a particular emphasis on:

- foreign and domestic patent prosecution
- client counseling
- infringement analysis
- patent invalidity and freedom to operate studies and Hatch-Waxman issues related to ANDA filings
- licensing, due diligence and divestiture matters in the chemical and pharmaceutical arts

A leader in the firm, Marilou serves as co-chair of the Life Sciences Practice. Additionally, she previously served as co-chair of the firm's Diversity Committee, where she assisted in spearheading initiatives that promoted firm-wide diversity and inclusiveness.

### **Before Fox Rothschild**

Prior to joining Fox, Marilou was a partner at Synnestvedt and Lechner, LLP, where she was chair of the Pharmaceutical Practice Group. She was also previously Assistant Intellectual Property Counsel at Elan Drug Delivery, Inc.

Marilou has been a registered pharmacist since 1991 with a focus on advanced pharmaceutical technology. She has a wide variety of technical experience within the pharmaceutical industry that includes bio-pharmaceutical research and development involving pharmacokinetic drug preformulation of proprietary compounds. Her pharmaceutical technical support experience involved technical analysis of numerous pharmaceutical products, devising project protocols and lab scale formulations of various drug products and excipients including product validation, stability and sterility studies.

### **Beyond Fox Rothschild**

As a member of the Montgomery Bar Association Diversity Committee, Marilou created a "Day in Court" program at the Montgomery County Courthouse, which received a County Bar Recognition Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association for its impact on the future of the legal profession.

She also has been an annual guest lecturer for 10 years at the Temple University Beasley School of Law on the topic "The Application of Intellectual Property Practice to Product Liability Cases."



Marilou was appointed a member of the Governor's Commission by Ed Rendell and was recently re-appointed by Governor Tom Wolf.

### **Honors & Awards**

- Named a Minority Business Leader by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* (2020)
- Recipient of the Salute to Greatness Award presented by the Trina Antoinette Adams Center for Keeping Children First, Inc. (2020)
- *The Legal Intelligencer* Lifetime Achievement Award recipient (2020)
- Named an "IP Star" by *Managing Intellectual Property* (2020-2021)
- Recipient of Montgomery Bar Association Honorable Horace A. Davenport Diversity Award (2019)
- Recipient of Barristers Association of Philadelphia's Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Woman of Distinction Award (2018)

### **Practice Areas**

- Intellectual Property
- Corporate
- International
- Life Sciences
- Patents
- Trade Secrets
- Post-Grant Proceedings and Inter Partes Review
- Emerging Companies & Venture Capital

### **Bar Admissions**

- Pennsylvania
- U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

### **Court Admissions**

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

### **Education**

- Villanova University School of Law (J.D., 1994)
- Temple University School of Pharmacy (B.S., 1991)
  - Pharmacy
- Temple University School of Arts & Sciences (B.A., 1987)
  - Biology

### **Memberships**

- The Forum of Executive Women
- American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)



- Governor's Commission (Appointed Member)
- AIPLA Vice Chair - Diversity Committee (2002-2003)
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association (PIPLA) April 1998 - 2006
- PIPLA Chair - Diversity Committee (2005-2006)
- Villanova Law School Women's Network Steering Committee (December 2019-October 2020)
- Villanova Law School Minority Alumni Society - Advisory Board Member (2003-2011); President (2006-2007)
- Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission (Appointed Member)
- Montgomery County Bar Association Diversity Committee, Chair
- Drexel University Goodwin College of Professional Studies Advisory Council
- Charles Widger School of Law at Villanova University, Women's Alumni Steering Committee

### **Board of Directors**

- Drexel University Goodwin School of Professional Studies, Advisory Board
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, House of Delegates
- United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
- Temple University School of Pharmacy, Board of Visitors
- American Bar Association, Commission on Women in the Profession, Women of Color Research Committee

## **Philanthropy & International Impact**

Through her work with Drexel University and the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders through the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Marilou invests time, legal and scientific knowledge and resources in supporting projects aimed at improving the lives of people in Sub-Saharan Africa. She communicates regularly with program participants, offering advice, encouragement and financial support to their efforts to bring needed food, medical and educational assets to the people of their home countries.

### **South Sudan Food Desert Project**

The COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for many people in South Sudan to leave their homes to work or buy food, particularly within a group of 21 villages near Juba, where children, young widows and the elderly were starving. Partnering with Mandela Fellow Dr. Peter Ngor Ayok, Marilou raised and donated money and provided support for an effort to provide food to the most vulnerable members of the villages, collecting donations to feed approximately 260 individuals. The donations provided food for households in an amount that would feed them for three weeks at a time. The effort continued through the end of August 2020 until working and other restrictions were lifted and jobs were restored. The philanthropic effort was recognized by the U.S. Embassy in Juba.

### **South Sudan Girls Internship Program**

In July 2020, Marilou worked with Dr. Ayok to create an internship program for young girls within 21 villages in Juba, South Sudan to provide them with skills and education on strategies for raising their families and villages' economic profiles and, most importantly, the community's understanding, perception and appreciation of their value as young women. The internship program, which enrolls 58 girls from age 14 to 19, pays the young women a monthly stipend to learn entrepreneurial skills and create products they can sell to generate additional income for their households.



### Ghana Pre- and Postnatal Clinic

Marilou assisted Mandela Washington Fellow Dr. Joel Afi of Ghana in the creation of a pre- and postnatal clinic for his rural village and surrounding villages — which are a four-hour ride from the nearest hospital — to reduce mother and infant morbidity and mortality. Dr. Afi was able to obtain a grant to build the new Abusua Community Medical Centre, which began construction in September 2020. Marilou is supporting ongoing efforts to assist with the purchase of medical equipment and supplies needed in the clinic.

## Day in Court

The award-winning Day in Court program, which Marilou created as a member of the Montgomery Bar Association's Diversity Committee, gives students an up-close look at the legal system in operation.

Launched in 2011, [Day in Court](#) brings students to the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, PA, where they observe live court proceedings and have an opportunity to speak afterward with the presiding judge and other members of the county bench. Students also meet with the district attorney, chief public defender, a retired county detective and the county commissioners.

The program's goal is to give young people an insider's look at the legal process, connect them with role models in the profession and help them to see the law as a potential future career. Day in Court serves as an experiential complement to the legal education program Marilou also created, "Teach Law," in which volunteer attorneys visit schools in the county to teach students about the law and legal principles.

In 2013, the Pennsylvania Bar Association singled-out the Day in Court program for its County Bar Recognition Award, which honors efforts that impact the future of the legal profession.

Marilou was also the recipient of the Montgomery Bar Association's prestigious Henry Stuckert Miller Community Service Award in 2016 for her dedication to public education and the advancement of the legal field.

Learn more about the Day in Court Program:

## Honors and Awards

- Recipient of *The Legal Intelligencer's* Lifetime Achievement Award (2020)
- Included in a list of "IP Stars" by *Managing Intellectual Property* (2012-2017, 2020-21)
- Recipient of the Salute to Greatness Award presented by the Trina Antoinette Adams Center for Keeping Children First, Inc. (2020)
- Recipient of Montgomery Bar Association Honorable Horace A. Davenport Diversity Award (2019)
- Recipient of the Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Woman of Distinction Award by The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia (2018)
- Named to "Best of the Bar" by *Philadelphia Business Journal* (2017)
- Named among the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* Women of Distinction (2016)
- Recipient of the Henry Stuckert Miller Community Service Award by the Montgomery Bar Association (2016)
- Recipient of the Multicultural Leadership Award by the National Diversity Council (2015)



- Selected as a Diverse Attorney of the Year by *The Legal Intelligencer* (2015)
- Selected as a recipient of the Minority Business Leader Award by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* (2014)
- Selected as a STAR (Special Thanks and Recognition) Honoree by the School District of Springfield Township in Montgomery County, PA (2014)
- Recipient of the Temple University School of Pharmacy Sprowls Lecture Award (2014)
- Temple University School of Pharmacy Commencement Speaker (2013)
- Recipient of the 2011 Life Sciences Award in the category of "Best Consultant" by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*
- Appointed to the Pennsylvania Governor's Commission on Early Childhood Learning Investment
- Included in the Barristers' list of 60 as a Top African American Lawyer in Philadelphia by *Tribune Magazine* (2011)
- Recipient of the Temple University Pharmacy School's Gallery of Success Award (2010)
- Included in a list of "Super Lawyers" in the field of Intellectual Property by *Super Lawyers Magazine*, Corporate Counsel Edition (2009)