

BEST MENTOR: JON JORDAN

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LEGAL AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE



Jon Jordan, a counsel with King & Spalding's Atlanta office, was honored for his mentorship within the firm.

"He often helps his mentees reach the right result on their own by asking thought-provoking questions, but he is always there to guide them to the right answer," according to his nominator essay. "Jon is so well known for his mentoring that he was recently honored by all of King & Spalding as a mentor of the year."

Jordan has also balanced his law career and those mentorship duties with success as a writer.

"Jon is a N.Y. Times best-selling author. He recently published a book with his daughter [Emily Anne Jordan], entitled '[The] War Queens,' about women war leaders throughout history," his essay said.

The Daily Report asked Jordan the following questions:

Who mentored you early in your career, and what did he or she mean to you?

Truly fortunate lawyers have several mentors over their careers. While mentors in a classical sense tend to be older lawyers teaching the younger generation, I have sought out mentors at every stage of my career. You stop needing a mentor only when you no longer need to learn.

I've had several mentors over my career. In my early years, Candace S. Schiffman (Weil Gotshal, Philips 66) taught me that sometimes you have to stay quiet, and sometimes you have to throw a fit—and it is critical to know when each is appropriate. Ed Fernandes (Weil Gotshal, King & Spalding) taught me to prepare

for hearings with the intensity of an athlete training for a big game. In my later years, Mark Maloney and Sarah Borders taught me a larger lesson: Never compromise on quality and competence, but never lose your warmth and humor along the way. I am truly grateful to these mentors for the lessons they shared with me.

Today, what does it mean to you to "pass the torch" and mentor others?

Mentorship is not so much "passing the torch" as using your torch to light the torch of the next person, brightening the room for both. Mentorship is a mindset that does not just carry a responsibility to help the next generation of professionals; it offers a reward by letting the mentor sharing in glow of the accomplishments of those he or she helped.