

# CHANGING THE FACE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

## Ms. JD Celebrates: Happy Birthday from Debbie Epstein Henry!



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*Editor's Note: In a continuation of Ms. JD's Sixth Birthday celebration, Debbie Epstein Henry, author of Law & Reorder, shares her insights about the benefits of getting involved with Ms. JD. To read more about Ms. JD's plans for the year, click [here](#). To give Ms. JD a birthday present, click [here](#).*

### **The Benefits of Getting Involved with Ms. JD**

When I got involved with Ms. JD at its inception, I thought it was the right thing to do. Here was a group of dynamic young women who had a wonderful mission to achieve gender parity and create an empowering community and resource for women law students and women lawyers. Over the years, I spoke at Ms. JD conferences, wrote posts to their site, mentored individual members and otherwise interacted with its Board and members to help promote, brainstorm and bring further reach to Ms. JD's work.

What surprised me about my interactions over the last six years is how much I personally benefited from the process. Many experienced women are frequently asked to mentor junior women and contribute their time but they seldom realize the personal value it will bring to them. In working with Ms. JD, I have been privileged to get to know and learn from the brightest legal minds and future leaders of our profession. These relationships have brought me knowledge about the future direction of the profession and they have put me on the pulse of what the younger generation wants. These interactions have also brought me profound friendship and given me inspiration for the work that I do.

As I look to Ms. JD's future and think about what's next for them, I see an even greater need for us to show our support by being involved in their initiatives, providing professional opportunities to their members, and donating our time and money to their work. It is a way for us not only to give back but also to ensure the future direction of our profession while gaining the invaluable perspective of what the future holds. I hope you will join me in sending big birthday wishes to our sisters at Ms. JD and saluting and supporting their continuing efforts to create a network of future women leaders in law.

**Deborah Epstein Henry** is a nationally recognized expert and consultant on workplace restructuring, talent management, work/life balance, and the retention and promotion of women lawyers. She is the author of *LAW & REORDER: Legal Industry Solutions for Restructure, Retention, Promotion & Work/Life Balance* (ABA, 2010), the #1 best selling ABA Flagship book for 2011. A former practicing litigator, Debbie is President of Flex-Time Lawyers LLC, an international consulting firm she founded in the late 1990s. Her firm is well known for running Best Law Firms for Women with Working Mother magazine – a national survey to select the top 50 law firms for women and report on industry trends. Her work has been featured by The New York Times, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, The Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, The National Law Journal, The Washington Post, The New York Law Journal, among numerous others. For more information, please visit [www.lawandreorder.com](http://www.lawandreorder.com) and [www.fleximelawyers.com](http://www.fleximelawyers.com).