

DAILY REPORT



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40 LEGAL RISING STARS TO WATCH under Forty

MAGDALENA HEIM | 37

Partner, Schklar & Heim

Kennesaw State University, 2000

Georgia State University School of Law, 2004

When Maggie Heim's parents fled their native Cuba as children, they were prohibited from taking their possessions. Heim was struck by the unfairness. Later, playing the role of an attorney in a high school class sparked her to consider a career in law.

Her mock trial experience at Kennesaw State University—where she competed against (and often beat) Ivy League teams—sealed the deal.

Heim now represents plaintiffs in high-stakes, complex estates and trusts, legal malpractice and business litigation, particularly cases involving claims of fraudulent schemes or stolen assets.

Digging is the fun part, she says. "I enjoy doing that very detailed work," she adds. "Once you figure out what happened in a case and determine where money went, you have to decide how to prove the case."

Schklar & Heim, the firm she shares with her husband, Edwin Schklar, has carved a niche as a go-to for such cases, picking up referrals from large firms that are conflicted or choose not to handle plaintiffs' securities litigation. Past clients include GE, Bank of New York Mellon and Noro-Moseley Partners.

Last year in a Gwinnett jury trial, Heim represented Lifewave, a multilevel marketing company being sued for breach of contract by a French distributor claiming \$3 million in damages. Heim secured both a defense verdict and a \$50,000 award on the counterclaim.

—Mary Smith Judd