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## Zuckerman Spaeder's Beltway Office Shows its Pull as Place to Which Attorneys Return

[Caroline Judge Mehta](#) has rejoined Zuckerman Spaeder's Washington, D.C. office as partner after two years as general counsel and chief legal officer at Afiniti—a rapidly growing global technology company.

BY BRUCE LOVE

### What You Need to Know

- Caroline Judge Mehta has rejoined [Zuckerman Spaeder's](#) Washington, D.C. office as partner.
- Mehta spent the last two years as general counsel at tech firm Afiniti.
- Several former partners have returned to the firm in recent years.

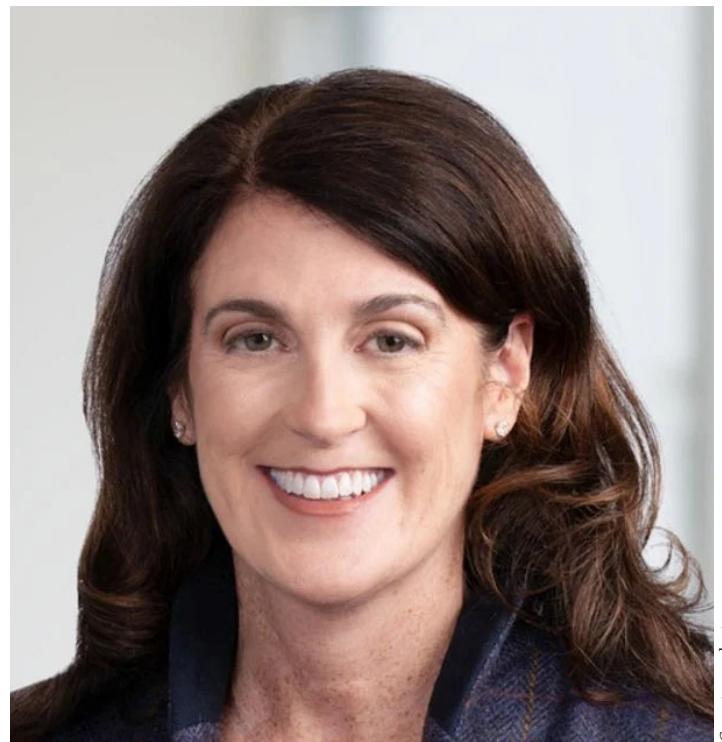
Caroline Judge Mehta has rejoined its Washington, D.C. office as partner after two years as general counsel and chief legal officer at Afiniti—a rapidly growing global technology company.

Yet another in a long list of lawyers who have left has returned to Zuckerman Spaeder's Washington digs.

Before moving to Afiniti, Mehta had spent 20 years at Zuckerman.

Mehta rejoins a host of returned colleagues.

[Jason Knott](#) followed Mehta to Afiniti as chief people officer in 2020. He first worked at Zuckerman from 2007 to 2020, and returned earlier this year.



Caroline Mehta of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP.

Courtesy photo

[William Schultz](#) served as general counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 2011 to 2016 before returning to the D.C. office. [Aitan Goelman](#) served as director of the Division of Enforcement at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission from 2014 to 2017. He first worked at Zuckerman from 2003 to 2014, returning in 2017.

[Peggy Dotzel](#) served as deputy general counsel and acting general counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 2011 to 2017. She first worked at Zuckerman from 2006 to 2011 and returned to the D.C. office in 2018.

In addition to the Washington returns, [Gregg Bernstein](#) returned to the Baltimore office in 2014. He had served as Baltimore City State's Attorney from 2011 to 2014. He first worked at the firm from 2003 to 2010.

"I spoke to a bunch of different law firms and had a number of attractive offers, but in the end came back to Zuckerman Spaeder because of the people," said Goelman. "I knew that at Zuckerman Spaeder, my colleagues would be great—both as lawyers and as human beings."

Dotzel said having spent time at Zuckerman Spaeder prior to serving as deputy and acting general counsel at HHS, she knew she would be returning to a firm that has both superb lawyers and a collegial culture.

"I also knew that at ZS, I would be encouraged and supported in developing a practice closely aligned with my recent experience and deep commitment to the issues I care about the most," said Dotzel.

The perspective Mehta brings from serving as in-house counsel will strengthen her representation of individuals, business organizations, and other entities in criminal, regulatory, and administrative investigations, she said.

Back at the firm, she will continue her practice focus on complex criminal cases involving mail and wire fraud, tax controversies, health care fraud, public corruption, insider trading and securities violations.

"We're so excited to have Caroline return to our firm. She's a talented advocate, a wonderful mentor, and a natural leader," said partner and firm chair [Dwight P. Bostwick](#). "Caroline is among several distinguished attorneys who have returned to us after serving in high-ranking government positions and in-house roles, further enhancing our ability to serve our clients."

"I am delighted to return to Zuckerman Spaeder and to resume practicing alongside my exceptional colleagues," said Mehta. "This firm is a special place, with a tradition of excellence in advocacy, a deep commitment to our clients, and an equally deep commitment to one another."

Of going in-house, she said she really felt like it would add a new dimension to her skill set, and it helped her see things from a client-side perspective.

"When you're inside a company, you have to make judgments about strategies that keep the business goals moving forward," said Mehta. "It was a great experience. I did miss the variety of cases, the diversity of clients that we have, but there's no question in my mind that I would ever go practice anywhere else. You know, after 20 years, this is essentially a family, but it's also just the highest caliber group of lawyers that I know and will ever know."