

as senior partner and member of the firm's business law department. McDonald previously served as general counsel of Special Metals Corp. in New Hartford, N.Y.



AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

The Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI) honored **Peggy A. Davis**, vice president of diversity at Exelon Corp., as one of its five 2006 "Women with Vision" in recognition of her service to the Chicago Public Schools and other community outreach projects.

"Career Talk" was researched and edited by Assistant Editor Julie Miller. Please send announcements about hires, promotions and other career moves to her at jmiller@insidecounsel.com.

CAREER ADVICE

Government Jobs Are Cool Again

BY MIKE EVERS

Clients frequently ask me "what's hot?" in in-house hiring. Usually I say, "it depends" and give a lawyerly non-answer. But not today.

Compliance is hot. I'm not just talking about securities law and SOX compliance. Today, virtually every industry is regulated, and clients want lawyers who can create and implement compliance programs. Health care companies need fraud and abuse experts and financial institutions want lawyers who understand banking regulations.

Instead of hiring generalists or litigators from law firms, legal departments are demanding industry experience. Raiding competitors may work for some positions, but that alone does not provide an adequate talent pool. This is why working for the government is cool again. While Skadden looks great on a résumé, three years with the FDA is more appealing to a pharmaceutical company. A stint at the SEC is gold. And for corporations dealing with an accounting investigation, a lawyer from the DOJ is ideal.

So, if you are having trouble breaking into the industry of your choice, consider a job with the agency that regulates that industry. You won't have to be there for life.

MIKE EVERS can be reached at 888.324.0154 or at mike@everslegal.com

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Additional information and entry forms are available online at www.innovationaward.com. All entries must be received by Friday, June 1, 2007.

