



DLA Piper Global Women's Leadership Summit



Michele DeStefano

Professor of Law

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Recognized by the ABA as a Legal Rebel, and by the Financial Times Innovative Lawyers (North America) as one of its top 20 most innovative lawyers, Michele DeStefano is a Professor at the University of Miami School of Law, affiliated faculty at Harvard Law School Executive Education and IE Law School, and the founder of LawWithoutWalls, a multi-disciplinary, international, intergenerational community of more than 2,000 lawyers, business professionals, entrepreneurs, and students who collaborate to create innovations in the business of law and, importantly, hone new mindsets and skillsets. She is also co-curator of the *Compliance Elliance Journal*, an international e-journal of articles on compliance and ethics.

Michele is an author, speaker, consultant, and facilitator on innovation, culture creation, teaming, and cross-practice, cross-border initiatives. Michele researches and writes about the growing intersections between law, business, and legal innovation. Recently, Michele helped co-create and spearhead the development of the Digital Legal Exchange, a non-profit designed to inspire general counsel and their teams to become digital leaders in their businesses to drive commercial value. To date, in addition to many articles, she has published two books. Her book, *Legal Upheaval: A Guide to Creativity, Collaboration, and Innovation in Law* leverages more than 100 interviews with General Counsels at international corporations and Heads of Innovation at law firms. The other book, *New Suits: Appetite for Disruption in the Legal World* (co-curated with Dr. Guenther Dobrauz) includes chapters by experts in law, innovation, and technology to provide a global perspective on the future of our diverse legal service delivery ecosystem.

Michele has been invited to speak about her areas of expertise at a number of law conferences, leading law firms, and law schools including Linklaters, Holland & Knight, Dentons, McDermott, Arnold Porter Kaye Scholer, Proskauer Rose, White & Case, Stanford, Harvard, Dartmouth, IE Business School, University of St. Gallen, and Fordham. And she has also delivered keynotes to legal departments within corporations and legal organizations such as Microsoft, DXC, Thomson Reuters, Blackstone, Spotify, ABA, AALS, and NAFSA. Michele earned her BA (Sociology and English) *magna cum laude* from Dartmouth and her JD *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

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