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New Leaders: Meet Our Young Attorney of the Year and All the On the Rise Winners!

Milinda Brown of Beal Sutherland Berlin & Brown was named as Daily Report's 2024 Young Lawyer of the Year. See links to all On the Rise winners below.

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Awards



Eden Landow



Milinda Brown, a co-founder and name partner at Beal Sutherland Berlin & Brown, was named Daily Report's first Young Attorney of the Year during the Southeastern Legal Awards dinner Thursday. She also was recognized among the 23rd group of young lawyers to receive On the Rise awards.

"Over the last 7 years, I have had the opportunity to learn from and work with so many amazing lawyers, and I am especially thankful for my mentor and now business partner, Drew Beal, who has provided me countless opportunities to grow as an attorney and hone my litigation skills. It is no surprise that he was also recognized last night as a Best Mentor finalist!" she said in a LinkedIn post Friday.

Brown's partners nominated her for this award for her "empathetic and compassionate approach to legal counsel." It was a big night for the Atlanta firm, too: The firm also was a finalist in the Litigation Department of the Year category.

Beal and Brown co-founded their firm in February 2023 with Rachel Berlin Benjamin and Brian Sutherland, who was lead and winning attorney in 2020's landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Bostock v. Clayton County*, on which Brown contributed discovery work while an associate lawyer.

Brown is currently preparing for trial in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in a defamation action against former attorney L. Lin Wood over alleged defamatory statements against his former law partners accusing them of criminal extortion. The trial is set to begin the week of Aug. 5.

She also represents Wood's former law partners in an alleged breach-of-contract and fraud case pending in Fulton Superior Court. It's been a "huge matter" for her practice since August 2020, she said.

Another substantial matter she is getting ready to argue is a case against Riverwood Behavioral Health on behalf of a transgender woman pursuing a discrimination claim under the Affordable Care Act. That case will go trial by the end of the year, also in the Northern District, Brown said.

An undergraduate alumna of Augusta University, in her hometown, Brown is the current chair of the state bar's Young Lawyers Division's Professionalism and Ethics Committee. She does pro bono work on a case-by-case basis, representing employees who are in "difficult situations."

Brown said she also enjoys doing pro bono work in the LGBTQ+ community and cited her work helping a client update their vital records to reflect their corrected gender, a process she said can be complicated and involve multiple steps.

But it's the work with the law firm that pays the bills. Having grown up working with her family's timber business, she learned early about the challenges facing closely held businesses.

"My father instilled in me the notion that entrepreneurs contribute a great amount to our society, and they need protection too," she said.

Receiving the award was a "shock," she said, "because so many intelligent and bright attorneys were nominated in the category. I am deeply honored. ... So many awards recognize the work of longtime attorneys and mentors, so it's nice for up-and-coming attorneys to have their own recognition. It shows the importance of striving to do your best."

On the Rise Winners for 2024

On the Rise is Daily Report's award category that since 2002 has recognized Georgia's—and for the past two years the region's—top lawyers 40 and under. Here are this year's On the Rise lawyers.

- [Alyssa Baskam](#) of [Beasley Allen Law Firm](#)
- [Adrian D. Boddie](#) of [Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders](#)
- [Milinda Brown](#) of [Beal Sutherland Berlin & Brown](#)
- [Grace Chandler](#) of [Motley Rice](#)
- [Thomas Clarkson](#) of [Griffin Durham Tanner & Clarkson](#)
- [Courtney Lutz Creal](#) of [Spencer Fane](#)
- [Stephanie Nullman Eban](#) of [Thrift McLemore](#)
- [Andrew Hatchett](#) of [Alston & Bird](#)
- [Matt Kahn](#) of [Butler Kahn Law Firm](#)
- [Andrew Kaufman](#) of [Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein](#)
- [Ben Keen](#) of [Beasley Allen Law Firm](#)
- [Will Keyes](#) of the [U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Georgia](#)
- [Aigner Kolom](#) of [Beasley Allen Law Firm](#)
- [Alison LeVasseur](#) of [Alston & Bird](#)
- [Daniel Peterson](#) of [Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein](#)

- [Allison Pryor](#) of Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders
- [Amelia C. Stevens](#) of Oliver Maner
- [Joseph VanZandt](#) of Beasley Allen Law Firm
- [Amanda Waide](#) of Alston & Bird

[Read more about all of this year's honorees and keep coming back next week for more coverage and photos.](#)

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