

## Rising Star: Mayer Brown's Juliet Gunev

By Emily Brill

*Law360 (August 13, 2024, 2:02 PM EDT)* -- Juliet Gunev of Mayer Brown LLP has spent her career helping global corporations build out their compliance programs, developing a specialty in corporate investigations and anticorruption law in the process and earning her a spot among the compliance law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### Why she's a compliance attorney:

Fresh out of law school and working as a litigation associate at Allens in Melbourne, Australia, Gunev was presented with the opportunity to work more closely with one of the firm's clients. She accepted, going in-house with the mining company BHP and starting her career as a compliance attorney.

"Taking on that in-house role was probably the most impactful and challenging experience of my career," Gunev said. "It was a super steep learning curve, but it was so rewarding."

At BHP, Gunev honed skills that would become her specialty: helping corporations comply with anticorruption laws, conduct internal investigations and navigate government investigations. Corporate compliance programs were not the behemoths they are now when she began working in the field, so she had the chance to watch — and help — them grow.

"All our clients today have very built-out global compliance programs, but when I went in-house, a lot of that was still being built out," Gunev said. "That was a great experience."

### Her most interesting recent case:

Now a partner in Mayer Brown's global investigations and white collar practice group, Gunev advises companies around the world on compliance matters. Much of her work is confidential, though some

2024



**Juliet Gunev**

Mayer Brown

**Age:** 36

**Home base:** Los Angeles

**Position:** Partner

**Law school:** Melbourne University Law School

**First job after law school:** Associate in Allens' Melbourne, Australia, office

details can be shared without company names.

Gunev told Law360 that recently, she helped a global tech company through a two-year federal investigation prompted by the company's withdrawal from Russia after the Ukraine invasion. The investigation, run by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control and U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security, resulted in the issuance of cautionary letters rather than a monetary penalty.

"It was a very interesting matter, linked to all kinds of geopolitical issues," Gunev said. "It's an example of how this work is truly global, which is part of why it's so interesting and why I enjoy it so much. We're always working cross-border with teams around the world."

#### **What motivates her:**

Multinational corporations must comply with as many countries' laws as they have locations, and "if you think about the footprint of our largest clients, that can seem pretty overwhelming," Gunev said. Becoming clients' trusted partner in navigating that morass is Gunev's goal, she said.

"The sheer volume and proliferation of laws and options in this space for how you'd go about building a compliance program often seems overwhelming," Gunev said. "Taking something that seems so daunting for clients and helping them figure it out is really rewarding."

She said she wants to be someone to whom clients feel comfortable bringing their "most stressful issues," knowing that she'll help them figure out a pragmatic approach to tackle whatever they're facing.

"To be considered a safe pair of hands is probably the biggest compliment you can get in this sort of area," Gunev said.

#### **On the future of compliance programs:**

Having watched compliance programs come into fruition at companies around the world over the past decade, Gunev is keenly interested in these programs' next 10 years. She is especially curious about what the impact of artificial intelligence will be on the field.

"I think compliance programs and controls are an obvious place to grow reliance on these kinds of technologies," Gunev said. "It'll be interesting to see how forward-leaning or cautious different companies are in that respect."

Gunev said she'd warn clients against rushing headlong into an AI-shaped compliance program, though. While the technology can perhaps be used to effectively supplement work done by corporate advisers, it can't replace that work, she said.

"The work that we do deals with people — it deals with very varied and complex sets of actions, facts and circumstances all around the world, so I think you're still going to need to have those trusted advisers visible to the business as part of your compliance program," Gunev said. "I don't see compliance teams no longer needing to meet with businesses face to face."

*--As told to Emily Brill. Editing by Linda Voorhis.*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of*

*Law360 editors selected the 2024 Rising Stars winners after reviewing nearly 1,200 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2024, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.*

---

All Content © 2003-2024, Portfolio Media, Inc.