

PLAINTIFF'S LAW STILL SKEWS MALE



of the **366**

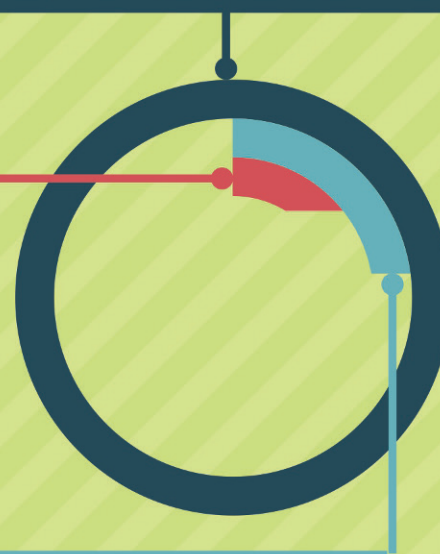
SETTLEMENTS IN THIS YEAR'S **JVR** REPORT

only **25**

HAD A **WOMAN** AS A
LEAD ATTORNEY ON THE
PLAINTIFF'S SIDE

only **75**

HAD WOMEN ON THE
TEAM **AT ALL**



Source: *Jury Verdict Reporter*

While more women have advanced in most aspects of law, plaintiff's law still remains decidedly a boy's club. Two of the top women in the game don't expect that to change any time soon.

Patricia Bobb of Patricia C. Bobb & Associates says plaintiff's law is a harder sell as a career move no matter the gender. Discovery costs are higher, particularly in the intricate cases seen in medical malpractice. Also, a plaintiff lawyer on contingency only gets paid if he or she wins, compared with defense lawyers who pull a salary win or lose.

"Many people do not like the added stress or the difficulty of the cases," Bobb said. "I don't think you can make it a male or female thing."

Beth Kaveny of Burke Wise Morrissey Kaveny said those stresses and costs hit women

harder given societal pressures they have — notably family.

"It's the only area of law where the lawyer puts a substantial amount of their personal finances in a case," Kaveny said. "You can't take six months off (for maternity leave). You have no success in that time. You have no income."

On the defense side, the numbers are higher, as women — often ones who were passed over or removed themselves from the firm partnership track — are better represented in the insurance adjuster and inside counsel worlds, Kaveny said. Then, they bring over and mentor younger female lawyers, ensuring a next generation.

"It's correctly and wonderfully feeding itself on that side of the bar," Kaveny said. "Not on my side."