

## In Generational Transition, Zuckerman Spaeder Names Next Leader

By Abigail Adcox

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### What You Need to Know

- [Caroline Mehta](#) will serve as co-chair beginning in the new year with [Dwight Bostwick](#), and become the sole chair starting in 2025.
- Caroline Mehta will be the first female chair in [Zuckerman Spaeder's](#) history.
- It comes as a number of firms in Big Law have announced leadership transitions over the past year or so.

Washington, D.C.-founded Zuckerman Spaeder has named partner Caroline Mehta as co-chair of the firm's executive committee and partnership board. She will assume the role of chair beginning in 2025, becoming the first female chair in its history, the firm said Monday.

Zuckerman Spaeder's leadership announcement follows a number of other law firm leadership changes in the past year. More than two dozen of the largest law firms have announced some type of leadership transition in the last year or so, as *Am Law* 200 firms name new managing partners and CEOs, and, for some, install multiple co-chairs for the first time.

Mehta's accession as co-chair comes amid a generational transition for the 85-attorney firm. In October, firm co-founder Roger Spaeder passed away.



Courtesy photo

**Caroline Mehta of Zuckerman Spaeder.**

"One thing that we're very proud of is these generational transitions," Mehta said, noting "one of our core values is that we want to be a cohesive, collegial partnership."

As of Jan. 1, 2024, Mehta, a white-collar defense and investigations lawyer, will share leadership responsibilities with the firm's current chair, Dwight Bostwick. Bostwick has been chair of the firm since 2016 after serving in 2015 as co-chair with Graeme Bush.

At the beginning of 2025, Mehta will rise to sole chair as the firm prepares for the 50th anniversary of its founding. Meanwhile, Bostwick will continue as a member of the firm's management team.

Zuckerman Spaeder, a firm that is well known for representing high-profile individuals in complex litigation, is seeking to represent more corporations, according to Mehta.

“Our size is not indicative of the firepower and resources that we can bring to any corporate matter,” Mehta said. “We are not afraid to try cases and do try cases frequently with successful results. That is something that separates us in the market.”

Some of Mehta’s other priorities include artificial intelligence, commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and growing the firm’s business in other ways.

“AI is an obvious area where there’s some exciting pilots going on in terms of what additional capabilities it can bring. I think the key is to not be afraid of it, but to understand it and embrace it early on and see it as an opportunity,” Mehta said.

“We absolutely need to keep pushing forward and double down on our commitments and diversity, equity and inclusion,” she added. “We are always looking to grow our business both in new subject-

matter areas, but also new geographies. We have lots of ability to have a more global presence than we do currently.”

Mehta first started at the firm as an associate more than 20 years ago. In 2020, Mehta left the firm to serve as general counsel and chief legal officer at software company Afiniti, before rejoining the firm in 2022.

“The process and choice of Caroline to take this next step reflects how we’ve operated for nearly 50 years—hiring good people, who also happen to be exceptional lawyers, and working as a team to produce the best results,” said Roger Zuckerman, one of Zuckerman Spaeder’s founding partners, in a statement.

A number of other law firms have announced leadership transitions over the past year, propelled by a combination of factors, including burnout in the wake of the pandemic, aging partners, and more pressure to pay high performers, say consultants and industry analysts in interviews with *The American Lawyer*.