

# HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Women  
WHO MEAN  
BUSINESS  
A W A R D S

## KATE DAY

Partner, Bracewell LLP

**Education:** Bachelor's, Rice University; Juris Doctorate, University of Virginia

**Years in the industry:** 22

**Boards and affiliations:** Houston Bar Association; Women's Energy Network; United Way Tocqueville Society; United Way Women's Initiative; Minute Mentoring; Bracewell Management Committee; Bracewell Women's Network; Bracewell Mentor for Diversity & Inclusion Committee; Bracewell Opinion Committee; Bracewell Hiring Partner

**How do you start your day?** My day starts with Nespresso and a quick check of my email, followed by a mad scramble to two schools with my kids as dueling DJs. Then, I have a more relaxed drive to work while I listen to a podcast or audiobook. This morning it was Malcolm Gladwell's podcast "Revisionist History."

**What is the most difficult thing you've had to do?** "Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are." I have this piece of advice on a yellow sticky by my computer to remind me that it is OK that I don't get everything done that I want to do every day. The hardest thing for me is to determine what I do and don't have time for, and to accept that what I am able to do is good enough.

**Who's been an important influence in your life and why?** My mother poured her heart, soul and significant intelligence into raising her daughters. Her love and humor continue to inspire me. Robin Miles was my first mentor at Bracewell. He taught me about the law, the deals we do and how to advocate for your client in a collaborative spirit.



**In what ways are you seeing your industry changing?** As the legal market has become more competitive, it's become more important to distinguish yourself as an expert in your field. For seven years running, Chambers has ranked Bracewell's finance group as the only Band 1 finance practice in Texas. No one knows energy finance like Bracewell does.

**What advice would you give to up-and-coming female leaders?** My advice to young women is twofold: speak up and say yes.