OCTOBER 29, 2026 | FIRM NEWS

Kara M. Maciel Receives Founded by Women Award for Legal Leadership

Conn Maciel Carey LLP (CMC) is proud to announce that Kara M. Maciel, Co-Founding Partner and Chair of the firm's national Labor & Employment Practice, has received the Q3 2026 Founded by Women (FBW) Individual Leader Award for Legal Leadership.

Founded by Women's Quarterly Awards, selected through editorial review, honor women founders and executives leading transformational change in their industries, including in legal innovation. For more than a decade, Kara has changed how employers engage and use legal counsel.

Building a National Practice

When Kara co-founded CMC in September 2014, she set out to build a different kind of management-side labor and employment practice. The traditional model brings counsel in after a dispute arises. Kara built a preventive strategy instead, combining compliance counseling, manager training, workplace investigations, and litigation preparedness so clients can spot and fix workplace issues before they escalate. Her training programs reach hundreds of HR professionals, executives, and in-house counsel every year.

Under Kara's leadership, CMC's Labor & Employment Practice has grown from four attorneys in one office to 17 attorneys across seven offices nationwide. Kara also helped build the operating foundation of what began as a startup law firm, including its leadership systems, collaborative governance, and a culture centered on mentorship and innovation. She has developed service models that scale with clients' needs while keeping sophisticated legal support cost-effective.

A Record of Recognition

The award adds to Kara's long record of recognition, including being named to the Washington, DC Super Lawyers list every year from 2014 to 2026. The firm has also earned national recognition of its own: Conn Maciel Carey is one of only two law firms ranked by Chambers USA in "Band 1" for Occupational Safety and Health Law nationwide, an honor it has received every year since 2021. The firm recently opened its Atlanta office, its seventh, as it continues to grow its national footprint and industry-focused capabilities.

As the firm expands, Kara continues to lead its Labor & Employment Practice with the same preventive approach that has defined it from the start.