

## DAILY REPORT

[Topics](#) ▾
 [Surveys & Rankings](#) ▾
 [Cases](#) ▾
 [Public Notice & Classifieds](#) ▾
 [Court Calendars](#) ▾
 [All Sections](#) ▾



Kavita Trivedi of Trivedi Consults.  
Courtesy photo

Q&A

### How an Epidemiologist Consultant Is Guiding Law Firms to Cohabitate With COVID-19

In a rapidly evolving landscape, the vaccines are "the very large silver lining," Kavita Trivedi said.

September 01, 2021 at 04:09 PM ⌚ 6 minute read

COVID-19

[Jessie Yount](#) 

The original version of this story was published on [The Recorder](#)

### What You Need to Know

- Kavita Trivedi, a medical epidemiologist, believes businesses need to learn how to cohabitate with COVID-19 for the long term.
- Trivedi, founder of Trivedi Consults, is advising law firms like Morrison & Foerster as well as judges and clerks.
- She brings prior experience from the California Department of Public Health, CDC and WHO.

Kavita Trivedi, a medical epidemiologist, saw her role as a health care consultant rapidly expand when the pandemic hit.

Trivedi is an expert in antimicrobial resistance, with experience at the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California Department of Public Health.

In short order, her client base at Trivedi Consults expanded from health care organizations to a broad range of businesses, such as law firms Morrison & Foerster and Tarter Krinsky & Drogin, as well as companies like Dermalogica and GrubHub.

Simultaneously, concerns narrowed. Clients had one specific question: "How do we operate in a pandemic?"

Now, 18 months later, Trivedi said the work hasn't slowed. As the coronavirus continues to circulate and produce new variant strains, while vaccination rates are stagnant, the conversation has shifted to how to co-habitate with COVID-19 for the long.

Trivedi spoke with Law.com, sharing her thoughts on how businesses can prevent the spread of the virus and put in place measures to account for an ever-evolving landscape.

## **You Can't Manage It If You Don't Measure It**

How are you illustrating differentiation to clients and potential lateral targets? How are you measuring performance against peers? Use Legal Compass to benchmark a firm against its competitors, unearthing unique insights about performance, partner retention, market penetration and more. Click to log in, or begin your free trial.

[Get More Information](#)

### **How did the pandemic transform the nature of your consulting business as a medical epidemiologist?**

Before the pandemic, I don't think many people knew what a medical epidemiologist does: control or stop the spread of infectious diseases. In the first six years of my business, I was focused on antibiotic resistance and stewardship, which includes improving infection control, sanitization, sterilization and cleaning.

During the pandemic, there was an expectation that businesses and organizations are supposed to figure out how to manage this crisis, in a changing landscape where we learn something new every day. It's hard for businesses to figure out how to implement recommendations or whose recommendations to follow because that information is not always in sync. Part of our role is providing guidance to clients on what we think is the most important development, even if that is not what the media is focused on.

### **What kind of advice have law firm clients such as Morrison & Foerster and Tarter Krinsky benefited from?**

We've done walk-throughs to provide ideas on how to improve spaces and suggest areas where Plexiglas is appropriate, and where masking signs and hand sanitizer should be placed. We've also developed programs for contract tracing and testing when there is an exposure. We've advised on travel considerations and how many days you can pad travel on either end, with potentially a test when you get to the location or to be able to quarantine on the way back. We've done educational webinars with judges and worked with a federal district court to look at their infection prevention controls and figure out spacing for an in-person jury trial.

Many of these lawyers are extremely well-read. They've read all the literature on COVID-19. A large part of my role is helping clients digest this information and giving them the tools they need so they can make the final decision for their own business.

For example, there are over 4,000 papers on COVID-19 published each week. A lot of data used in the press is preprint, which means the research has been submitted to a journal but has not been peer reviewed. We have a mechanism now to access that information so that people have an idea of the research, but it's important to understand that the data isn't peer reviewed. The peer review process takes quite a few months, and a lot of these articles may not include the final analysis.

### **The delta variant and recent surge of coronavirus cases has thrown a wrench in many businesses' return to work plans. How are you helping clients pivot as needed?**

In June, there was a lot of optimism [in California]. We had a high vaccination rate, we saw cases come down, and then the variant threw us into a tizzy. Hospitals are overwhelmed again. We're not where we thought we'd be. A lot of law firms feel they can work remotely efficiently and effectively, so they've pushed back their opening dates. But I think it depends on how the business thrives working remotely.

We've also recognized if we don't vaccinate the entire globe as quickly as we want, then we will continue seeing variants and surges. We should prepare ourselves now—not on how to eradicate or eliminate COVID-19, but how to co-habitate with the virus.

Organizations need to figure out which public health measures to implement during different phases of the pandemic. For example, look at the case rate per 100,000 and hospitalizations and deaths at that time and outline metrics that trigger adding measures or backing off. Now, many are back to wearing high-quality masks indoors, social distancing and implementing a lot of measures that were being used during the winter surge. Hopefully, things will get better in the next few weeks and businesses can peel off measures again. But in the winter, we might see cases going up again.

With the delta variant, companies that still have offices operating need to do something different so employees and clients see a change. Psychological security is extremely important, and it shouldn't be underemphasized.

**In recent weeks, more companies have revealed vaccine mandates for employees in office. How are you helping clients think through a mandate?**

The fact that we have this tool is the very large silver lining. It's a tool at our fingertips and continues to be excellent at preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death. After the full FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, that is a further impetus for companies to feel comfortable requiring that of staff. But it depends. It's not a one-size-fits-all approach, as every organization has a different ethos around these decisions.

We have seen when organizations require employees to be vaccinated, many of the unvaccinated employees are glad the decision has been taken out of their hands. People from different communities and social bubbles are making decisions on vaccination based on the information they are hearing. Once an employer ties it to their employment, then the decision is taken out of their hands if they want to work there.

---

#### RELATED STORIES

**[Big Law Converges Around a Late September Return—But That May Not Be Realistic](#)**

**[The Way Back: How Law Firms Are Planning for Post-COVID Office Life](#)**

**[Vaccine Mandate Tracker: The Law Firms Requiring Vaccination for Office Returns](#)**

---

#### You Might Like

August 31, 2021

**[Vaccine Mandate Tracker: The Law Firms Requiring Vaccination for Office Returns](#)**

By ALM Staff

🕒 1 minute read

September 01, 2021

## **Natasha Harrison Is Stepping Down as Deputy Chair of Boies Schiller Flexner**

By [Dylan Jackson](#)

🕒 1 minute read

September 02, 2021

## **The Way Back: How Law Firms Are Planning for Post-COVID Office Life**

By ALM Staff

🕒 1 minute read

August 23, 2021

## **Like Behemoths, Boutiques Including Durie Tangri Jump on the Mandatory Vaccine Train**

By Brenda Sapino Jeffreys

🕒 1 minute read

---

### LAW FIRMS MENTIONED

---

**Morrison & Foerster LLP**

●

### TRENDING LAW FIRMS THIS WEEK

1. **Kirkland & Ellis**  
27 new blips
2. **Latham & Watkins**  
23 new blips
3.  **Littler Mendelson**  
17 new blips

17 new blips

4 . Gordon Rees Scully  
Mansukhani  
15 new blips

5 . Jones Day  
14 new blips

[Go To Law.com Radar](#)

## TRENDING STORIES

### **'White Shoe,' Once a Badge of Honor, Is Now a Branding Dilemma**

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

### **Capitol Riot Cases at a 'Standstill' as John Pierce Goes MIA, and DOJ Refuses to Work With His Unlicensed Associate**

NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

### **Foreseeing Future of Office Work, Kirkland Plans Move in Downtown Chicago**

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

### **Big Law Converges Around a Late September Return— But That May Not Be Realistic**

NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

### **After US Raises, What Does a First-Year Associate Cost Around the World?**

THE AMERICAN LAWYER

## LAW.COM | PRO

### **How The Delta Dilemma Is Affecting Law Firms And Their People**

### **Where Firms Should Expand, and Where They Shouldn't**

### **Law Firm Leadership Amid an Epic Battle For Talent**

**ALM** REPRINTS  
& LICENSING

## Mentioned in a Law.com story?

License our industry-leading legal content to extend your thought leadership and build your brand.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## FEATURED FIRMS

**Law Offices of Gary Martin  
Hays & Associates P.C.**  
(470) 294-1674

**Law Offices of Mark E.  
Salomone**  
(857) 444-6468

**Smith & Hassler**  
(713) 739-1250

## More From ALM

### [CLE Center](#)



#### Premium Subscription

With this subscription you will receive unlimited access to high quality, online, on-demand premium content from well-respected faculty in the legal industry. This is perfect for attorneys licensed in multiple jurisdictions or for attorneys that have fulfilled their CLE requirement but need to access resourceful information for their practice areas.

[View Now](#)

#### Team Accounts

Our Team Account subscription service is for legal teams of four or more attorneys. Each attorney is granted unlimited access to high quality, on-demand premium content from well-respected faculty in the legal industry along with administrative access to easily manage CLE for the entire team.

[View Now](#)

#### Bundle Subscriptions

Gain access to some of the most knowledgeable and experienced attorneys with our 2 bundle options! Our Compliance bundles are curated by CLE Counselors and include current legal topics and challenges within the industry. Our second option allows you to build your bundle and strategically select the content that pertains to your needs. Both options are priced the same.

[View Now](#)

[Go to CLE Center](#)

### Legal Newswire

**Gage Announces Extension of Licensing Agreement with COOKIES in Michigan**

**Attorney John Gomez Named One of the Best Lawyers in America**

**Pomerantz Law Firm Reminds Shareholders with Losses on their Investment in Coinb...**

**ATIP Shareholder Alert: Bronstein, Gewirtz & Grossman, LLC Notifies ATI Physical...**

Submit a press release



# Subscribe to Daily Report

Don't miss the crucial news and insights you need to make informed legal decisions. Join Daily Report now!

- Unlimited access to Daily Report
- Access to additional free ALM publications
- 1 free article\* across the ALM subscription network every 30 days
- Exclusive discounts on ALM events and publications

Join Daily Report



Already have an account? Sign In



[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright © 2021 ALM Media Properties, LLC. All Rights Reserved