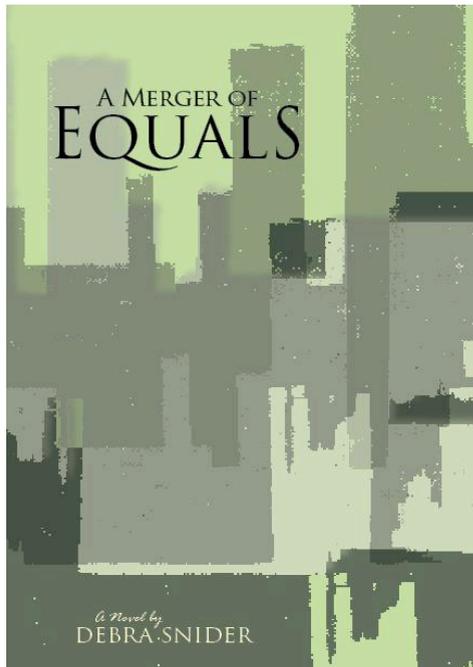


BOOK REVIEWS

# The Book Review



**A MERGER OF EQUALS**  
BY DEBRA SNIDER

A Merger of Equals, at its heart, is the story of the challenges faced in our highly competitive business world, particularly for women. Told from the perspective of both females and males, it tackles head-on the cut-throat business practices, outdated management committees, struggles of women in the work place, careers and family, artful negotiation, friendships (male and female), work life balance and even romance.

The story: Jane and Charlie work in investment banking. Jane joins the Firm fresh out of college, with clear goals. Charlie, her highly successful mentor, sees Jane as a whole person rather than stereotyping her as a female. By tracking Jane's move up the career ladder, we meet many stereotypical characters, much like those working around us. Both Jane and Charlie talk out loud to the reader as they

sort out their experiences, emotions and self-reflection - a real opportunity to take a good look at ourselves. I was especially attracted to Charlie's family and his upbringing which was in stark contrast to the manner in which Jane was raised.

When I first realized the book was 477 pages, I was convinced I would never get through it. However, the more I read, the more I wanted

to read. Quite quickly, I just could not put this book down. The author, a seasoned lawyer who clearly has faced many of the character's struggles, does a remarkable job of telling this story with humor, honesty and insight. The dialogue is masterful. This would make a great made-for-TV movie.

A must read for every woman moving from college into career. The rest of us will find our lives reflected on many of the pages. It's a book we can relate to, even if we don't want to think inequality among the sexes still exists.

Loved it, in spite of its length! In fact, I really wouldn't mind meeting the author.

**Publisher:** MJS Publishing Group, LLC  
**Pages:** 477  
**Rating:** 5

Review by Beth King, RP



**EXECUTIVE COUNSEL**  
**THE MAGAZINE FOR THE**  
**GENERAL COUNSEL,**  
**CEO & CFO**

With all the publications aimed at in-house counsel, it's easy to overlook some of them. That's a shame because Executive Counsel is an excellent hard-copy magazine.

Published five times a year, this slick publication covers department by department of the company, no matter what the size. There's something for everyone and it's a great way for lawyers to keep up on what matters to business. An excellent article, "For Most Legal Work, Small and Mid-Sized Firms Make Sense" by attorney Steven P. Blonder describes an old strategy revived in a buyer's market and is highly informative. There are articles on governance, e-discovery, human resource, intellectual property and more. Congressman Rick Boucher ad-

resses emission targets and the article, "Understanding Climate Change Legislation" is of interest to practically everyone, no matter what law you practice or what your business might be.

The only problem can be the price. At \$199.00 for five issues, it may be a tad pricey. However, there are attorneys writing for the publication who most likely get business from being the authoritative voice on a particular topic. It depends on whether you see this as an information vehicle or an avenue to develop business. Either way, it's worth the read.

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