

The Firms That Dominated In 2019

Law360 Names Practice Groups and Firms Of The Year

Law360 (January 12, 2020, 9:04 PM EST) -- Law360 congratulates the winners of its 2019 Practice Groups of the Year awards, which honor the law firms behind the litigation wins and major deals that resonated throughout the legal industry in the past year.

Latham & Watkins

In the first federal securities class action to reach a verdict in a decade, Latham & Watkins attorneys persuaded a California federal jury in February 2019 to clear Puma Biotechnology of most investor claims that the company misrepresented the results of a clinical trial for a breast cancer treatment.

Puma had been facing the prospect of more than \$1 billion in damages and ended up with what Latham described as a minuscule amount of damages at \$4.50 a share.

“It was a phenomenal outcome,” said Ora T. Fisher, a Latham vice chair.

Brad Kotler, also vice chair at the firm, said that Latham has spent the past few years focusing on its life sciences practice and pouring its expertise in capital markets and M&A into the pharmaceutical industry.

Winning a practice group award for its life sciences group “demonstrates what we’ve been trying to do, so we’re particularly proud of that,” Kotler said.

Fisher, who is based in the firm’s Silicon Valley office, said that Latham’s areas of expertise have been a “perfect match for the life sciences industry,” noting that the industry is “capital intensive” and has a “very active M&A pipeline.”

“Larger pharmaceutical companies are so eager to keep their pipelines robust with respect to rolling out new pharmaceuticals,” Fisher said. “They’re always looking for the next big thing.”



The vice chairs also singled out Latham's bankruptcy practice group, which Kotler described as a "powerhouse" practice that has "really taken off in the past year."

In 2019, the firm handled complex bankruptcy matters for global chemical company Hexion, oil and natural gas giant Weatherford and other international companies.

Kotler said that while the firm has previously been known to represent creditors in bankruptcy cases, Latham has recently begun focusing more on the debtor's side.

He pointed to the firm's recent expansion in its bankruptcy and restructuring practice the year before with the additions of former O'Melveny & Myers LLP partner George Davis, global chair of that group, and former Sidley Austin LLP partner Jeff Bjork, who serves as global vice chair of the practice group.

"They have really taken our group to the next level," Kotler said.

Latham won practice group of the year awards for its bankruptcy, cybersecurity & privacy, life sciences, securities, telecommunications and white collar groups.

All Content © 2003-2020, Portfolio Media, Inc.