

## Law360 Names Firms Of The Year

By **Xiumei Dong**

*Law360 (January 20, 2025, 8:00 PM EST)* -- Eight law firms have earned spots as Law360's Firms of the Year, with 54 Practice Group of the Year awards among them, steering some of the largest deals of 2024 and securing high-profile litigation wins, including at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP took the top spot with 10 wins while Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Covington & Burling LLP shared second place with eight wins each. Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP and Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP each earned six wins. Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP and Kirkland & Ellis LLP rounded out the list with five wins apiece.

Many of the firms credited their recent success to a collaborative culture that spans practice areas and geographies.

### **Latham**

Latham's deal team was also highly active last year, including representing Skydance Media in its pending merger with Paramount Global to create New Paramount, a next-generation media and technology leader valued at \$28 billion, with Skydance valued at \$4.75 billion.

The firm also advised cold-storage warehouse giant Lineage Inc. on its \$4 billion IPO — \$5.1 billion after the greenshoe exercise — marking the largest IPO of 2024 and the largest IPO in history for a real estate company or REIT.

Charles Ruck, global chair of Latham's corporate department, credited the firm's success to its global platform and deep industry expertise, highlighting its commitment to excellence across major commercial centers in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

"Last year's IPO market was challenged, and so it took very high quality companies to have successful offerings," Ruck said, highlighting the Lineage IPO. He pointed to the firm's long-standing relationship with the company and its blend of capital markets and real estate expertise for driving success despite challenging conditions.

Echoing Ruck, Alex Kelly, global vice chair of Latham's private equity & investments funds practice, explained that it's not just about having a global platform and deep industry expertise, but also the need for the full



support of the team to meet clients' complex demands.

She cited Ares Management Corp's acquisition of GCP International as an example, noting that more than 200 Latham lawyers from various specialties, including M&A, regulatory, employment and tax from across multiple regions worked together to deliver the best outcome for the client.

"I think there's very few firms that have even the global footprint to do what we can do, and I don't think there's any firm that has the global footprint to do what we can do that actually has the deep, substantive expertise," Kelly said.

She also underscored Latham's industry focus, noting that clients today seek not only legal advice but also insights into the industries they're investing in.

In the upcoming year, Ruck shared that his primary focus is on client service, aiming to strengthen relationships with the firm's broad client base, including over 450 public companies, major private equity firms and private capital clients.

"So the initiatives that I'm focused on this year are all about getting closer to our clients and doing more for our clients across our global platform," Ruck added.