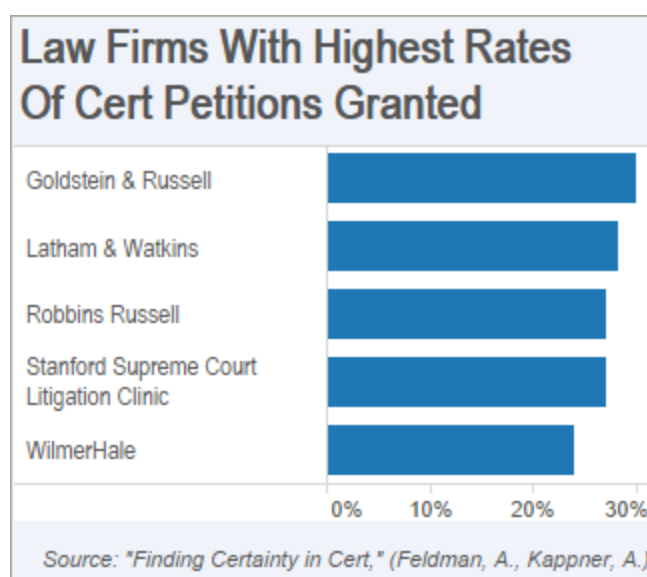


The Firms Getting The Most Love From The Supreme Court

By Aebra Coe

Law360, New York (January 25, 2016, 2:45 PM ET) -- A recent study of the 93,000 certiorari petitions filed with the U.S. Supreme Court between 2001 and 2015 shows that a handful of lawyers at a few, elite firms wield enormous power when it comes to winning the justices' nod for review.

Despite the fact that a measly 1 percent of certiorari petitions are typically granted in a Supreme Court term, a study published Jan. 14 shows that a select few firms win review of an inordinate number of the petitions they file. At the top of the pile is SCOTUSblog co-founder Thomas Goldstein's firm, Goldstein & Russell PC, which won grants in 30 percent of its 60 petitions over the 12-year period. Latham & Watkins LLP was close behind, winning review on 28.3 percent of its 60 petitions.



"Even though we look at many different factors that impact the likelihood of cert success in this paper, these factors tend to pinpoint similar players," said the report, titled "Finding Certainty in Cert: An Empirical Analysis of the Factors Involved in Supreme Court Certiorari Decisions From 2001-2015."

Meanwhile, two firms each had a 27 percent success rate at cert: Stanford Law School's Supreme Court Litigation Clinic and Robbins Russell Englert Orseck Untereiner & Sauber LLP, according to the study.

Also ranked highly by the report were WilmerHale, Kellogg Huber Hansen Todd Evans & Figel PLLC, Gibson Dunn, Williams & Connolly LLP, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Bancroft PLLC, the University of Washington, Mayer Brown LLP, Jones Day, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, MoloLamken LLP, King & Spalding LLP, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, and Sidley Austin LLP.

Sidley Austin, which had a 15.9 percent success rate, was also the firm that filed the most certiorari petitions over the 12-year period, at 189.

The study also looked at firms that had the most success opposing certiorari petitions.

With a 97.2 percent cert denial rate, Holland & Knight was the most successful firm, seeing 35 of the 36 cert responses it handled denied, according to the study.

Reed Smith LLP was the next most successful, with a 97.1 percent cert denial rate based on denials in 33 of 34 petitions.

Meanwhile, Davidson & Lindemann PA and Greenberg Traurig LLP., which handled mainly state responses, clocked in cert denial rates of 96.6 and 96.4 percent respectively.

The authors of the report are Adam Feldman, a lawyer and political science PhD candidate at the University of Southern California, and Alexander Kappner, a juris doctor candidate at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

--Editing by Edrienne Su.

Correction: An earlier story failed to include WilmerHale among the firms with the highest rates of certiorari petitions granted. The error has been corrected.

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