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A Full Slate of Litigator of the Week Runners-Up and Shout Outs

By Ross Todd October 13, 2023

- Runners-up honors go to a Latham & Watkins team that found a creative way to dispose of a proposed antitrust class action against client Dairy Farmers of America Inc. The case dealt with an alleged continuation of claims at issue in a prior class action resolved via settlement more than five years ago. The Latham team decided to forego a motion to dismiss and instead filed a motion for summary judgment arguing both that the claims were barred by the prior settlement and that the complaint itself amounted to a breach of the settlement's covenant not to sue. U.S. District Judge Christina Reiss in Burlington, Vermont, granted summary judgment to DFA last month and last week signed off a stipulated order dismissing all claims with prejudice. The Latham team included partners Sarah Ray, Anna Rathbun and Al Pfeiffer, counsel Jason Daniels, and associates Greg Swartz, Meiran Yin and Karen Kim as well as co-counsel at Baker & Miller and Sheehey Furlong & Behm.
- You might remember that a team from Latham led by partner Chris Harris and counsel Betsy Marks got Litigator of the Week honors last year for helping Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals navigate a Chapter 11 confirmation hearing held over 16 days. Well, unfortunately, Mallinckrodt landed back in bankruptcy again. After a much quicker single-day hearing last week, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge John Dorsey in Wilmington, Delaware, this week signed off on the company's prepackaged reorganization plan. The Latham team this time around included litigation associate Justin Kirschner, restructuring partners George Davis, Jason Gott, Anupama Yerramalli and counsel Hugh Murtagh, and local counsel from Michael Merchant and Amanda Steele of Richards, Layton & Finger.