

A Veritable Blizzard of Litigator of the Week Runners-Up and Shout Outs

By Ross Todd

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► Runners-up honors also go to a **Latham & Watkins** team that includes soon-to-be partner **Samir Deger-Sen** who extended the win streak in federal appellate cases he's argued that we told you about last week. The Ninth Circuit this week upheld a ruling knocking out a Telephone Consumer Protection Act suit against Latham client Meta Platforms Inc. based on unsolicited birthday announcement text messages sent to consumers' cellphones. The court held that Facebook did not violate the TCPA because it did not use an autodialer that randomly or sequentially generates telephone numbers as laid out in the statute. The Latham team also included partners **Andrew Clubok** and **Susan Engel** and associates **Greg in den Berken** and **Peter Trombly**.

► Runners-up honors go to a separate Latham team led by partners **Max Grant** and Charles Sanders for their defense win at trial for automotive parts client SMR in a patent fight with rival Magna Mirrors over mirrors aimed at eliminating the blind spot. A federal jury in Grand Rapids, Michigan, last week found that the five patent claims Magna asserted in the case were invalid. The Latham trial team also included partners **Terra Reynolds** and **Greg Sobolski**, counsel **Thomas Yeh** and **Dale Chang**, and associates **Brett Sandford**, **Tom Watson**, **Sami Al-Marzoog** and **Nicole Bruner**.

► Shout out to a joint pro bono team at **Sanctuary for Families**, **Latham & Watkins** and Davis Polk & Wardwell. Governor Kathy Hochul granted clemency this week to their client Jacqueline Smalls, a 60-year-old domestic abuse survivor who had served 10 years in prison of a 15-year sentence for killing her abuser. The Latham team included partner **Jamie Wine** and associates **Brittany Ehardt**, **Jaclyn Newman**, **Melange Gavin** and **Wendy Gu**. The Davis Polk team was led by counsel **Dara Sheinfeld**, the firm's head of pro bono litigation, counsel **Denis McInerney**, associates **Christine LiCalzi** and **Abigail Cooper**, and legal assistant **Aoife Bennett**.