

Litigator of the Week

Runners-Up and Shout Outs

By Ross Todd

June 30, 2023

► Shout out to the team of defense lawyers representing Chess.com and chess masters Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura in a lawsuit that has captured the attention of the chess world. The defendants beat back federal antitrust claims from chess prodigy Hans Niemann stemming from his ban for alleged cheating on the Chess.com platform. Senior U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig in St. Louis this week dismissed Niemann's federal claims and declined to exercise federal jurisdiction of his remaining claims. The **Latham** team representing Chess.com, the company's Chief Chess Officer Danny Rensch, and mobile app Play Magnus includes partners **Jamie Wine, Nima Mohebbi** and **Alan Devlin**, associates **Sarah Mitchell, Michael Hale, Blake Stafford, Lindsey Sugimoto, Robert Medina-Garcia** and **Evan Omi** with additional counsel from finance partner **Haim Zaltzman**, litigation partner **Sean Berkowitz**, corporate partner **Luke Bergstrom** and corporate associate **Adele Zhang**. Their counsel in Missouri included Jeffrey Jensen, Kate Ledden, Derek Teeter and Spencer Tolson of Husch Blackwell. Magnus Carlsen is represented by a team from Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider led by partners Craig Reiser and Denise Plunkett, that includes associates Eva Yung, Caroline Boisvert, and Claire Haws, with counsel in Missouri from J. Nicci Warr and Jacob Schlueter of Stinson LLP. Hikaru Nakamura is represented by Michael J. Ryan of Michael J. Ryan PA as well as Neal Perryman, Benjamin Farley and Michael Jente of Lewis Rice.