

# New York Law Journal

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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

## MILES RUTHBERG

OF COUNSEL AT LATHAM & WATKINS

*I am honored to pay tribute to my mentor, partner, and most of all dear friend, Miles Ruthberg. Miles is a legendary force in the securities and class action litigation fields, who also has had a huge impact on Latham and its New York litigation practice in particular. The admiration, fondness, and appreciation for Miles among his colleagues and peers is unmatched, owing to his decency and generosity.*

**BY JAMIE WINE**

I met Miles nearly 25 years ago when I was a first year associate at Latham and he was interviewing as a lateral partner to join the firm. I was struck by his warmth and respect toward others, regardless of their level of seniority, and that conversation set us on the path of an extraordinary and mutually rewarding mentor-mentee relationship during which I grew from his “kid,” to his partner, to his “boss” (as he likes to call it).

Our partner Peter Wald, one of Miles’ closest friends, had a similar reaction when they met at Harvard Law School: “My first impression of Miles—which stood in such stark contrast to the rest of us, these pumped-up masters of the universe—was his humility and kindness.” Peter points to Miles’ empathy, compassion, and concern for other people combined with his “sheer brilliance” as “what makes Miles the extraordinary individual he is.”

An outstanding orator and supreme strategist, Miles successfully serves clients in their most challenging and consequential litigations. His unrelenting excellence has led to a storied career encompassing a number of landmark wins, including the dismissal of more than \$35 billion in claims against Ernst & Young in connection with Lehman Brothers’ collapse, the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history.

More recently, he achieved a series of successes for GE, dismissing multibillion dollar securities class actions in the SDNY. And earlier in his career he represented 3M in an innovative national class action settlement of the multibillion dollar breast implant litigation—the then-



largest mass tort settlement in history.

In addition to his practice achievements, Miles led Latham’s growth while chairing the firm’s global and New York litigation departments, and as a member of its Executive Committee. Miles had the strategic vision several years ago to promote trial work as a core capability of Latham’s litigation department, recognizing the premium clients place on those lawyers who actually know how to try cases.

Latham’s prominence today as a trial powerhouse has roots in Miles’ vision to catch up external perception to the accomplishments of our litigators.

Miles taught many of us how to litigate with the highest quality and with great integrity, encouraged us to find our own voices and take chances, and showed us that you can be an unbelievably effective litigator without being a jerk. He cares for us the way he does his own family, to whom he is incredibly devoted.

As our partner Sean Berkowitz observed: “I am a better lawyer and better person for having had the opportunity and privilege of working with Miles. We won’t see someone with his combination of brilliance, warmth, and perseverance again in my lifetime.”

Miles has ensured a legacy that we will long remember, and to which we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

*Jamie Wine is a partner at Latham & Watkins.*

