

Litigator of the Week

Runners-Up and Shout-Outs

By Ross Todd
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► Shout-out to a **Latham & Watkins** team led by partners **Melanie Blunsch** and **Daniel Gherardi**, who secured a Christmas Eve ruling knocking out a securities class action against pharmaceutical client Ardelyx Inc. and certain company executives. U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin in Boston dismissed the suit with prejudice, finding that plaintiffs failed to show that the company had misled investors about potential Medicare reimbursements for Xphozah, the company's medication for kidney disease patients on dialysis. Gherardi argued the motion to dismiss. The Latham team included associates **Ashley Gebicke**, **Anastasia Pyrinis** and **Celeste Hamre**.