

THE AMLAW LITIGATION DAILY

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 partner **Matthew Walch** and associates **Jessica Saba** and **Sara Castiglia**, who represented the companies behind the Sandals and Beaches Resorts in the Caribbean. They defended their clients against copyright infringement claims brought by HH Advertising Inc., seeking hundreds of millions of dollars. Over more than 30 years, the advertising agency produced thousands of photographs and videos that appeared on the Sandals and Beaches websites, but that relationship ended in 2023 and the agency sued, claiming copyright infringement of more than 2,200 works produced. But after a bench trial, U.S. District Chief Judge Cecilia Altonaga in Miami [held this week](#) that the ad agency was only eligible for damages on the 33 images registered with the copyright office before September 20, 2023, when the agency sent a cease-and-desist letter to resorts regarding the images. The judge also only awarded \$1,500 per work—rather than the \$150,000 per work requested at trial by the agency—for a total of [\\$49,500](#). The trial team included **Latham** associates **Jonas Hallstein** and **Corey Stewart** and local counsel Peter Prieto, Dayron Silverio and Matthew Weinshall of Podhurst Orseck.