

New York Law Journal

LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR WINNER (PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY) LATHAM & WATKINS



Read a Q&A prepared by Andrew Clubok, global chair of Latham & Watkins' securities and M&A litigation practice, below.

What are some of the department's most satisfying successes of the past year and why?

When the stakes are highest, we deliver at every level: Resolving market-defining securities and M&A disputes that set federal and state precedent; defeating the SEC's landmark enforcement action against SolarWinds; winning a rare jury verdict for ExxonMobil in a decade-old securities class action—which almost never get tried (and complete defense verdicts are rarer still)—yet Latham has been involved in almost all of them in recent years; and securing securities class action dismissals for American Airlines, Adobe, DocuSign, The Metals Company, Vroom and many others. We prevailed for Meta in one of the largest securities actions ever filed, involving a stock drop of nearly a quarter trillion dollars, and cemented that victory with a unanimous Ninth Circuit affirmance.

Our M&A litigators are equally formidable: defending Skechers against claims threatening its \$9.4 billion take-private merger, clearing the path for Skydance's \$8 billion Paramount deal, defeating Pfizer's effort to enjoin Novo Nordisk's \$10 billion topping bid in the battle to acquire Metsera, securing a complete dismissal and record cost award for Lindsay Goldberg in a high-stakes international arbitration, and obtaining Delaware Supreme Court affirmances for Carvana and The Trade Desk in matters that altered the landscape for Delaware companies considering reincorporation and impacted corporate governance practices nationwide.

These and dozens of other headline-making wins this past year show that our success is not episodic but systematic—a distinction reflected in Latham's recognition as New York Law Journal's Professional Liability Litigation Department of the Year in six of the last seven award cycles.

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What traits do you respect most in opposing firms and lawyers?

We respect opponents who master the factual record, meet us at the highest level of the craft, and challenge us to exceed it. These lawyers are defined by thorough preparation, creative advocacy, and intellectual rigor.

Our track record is strongest precisely because we routinely face the nation's best advocates and government enforcers. Although litigation is inherently adversarial, the process works better when opposing counsel share Latham's commitment to professionalism, practicality and courtesy. We are all human, after all.

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm?

We build trial lawyers the same way we try cases—by putting them before judges, juries and justices with real stakes on the line. Courtroom responsibility is not a reward for seniority; it is the essential mechanism through which advocates are made. Mentorship is top-down and embedded in our operating structure—not an aspiration, but part of our daily work.

Partners create stand-up opportunities and report annually on what they delivered, and that reporting factors into evaluations. Associates

receive formal training through our Basic and Advanced Trial Advocacy Programs and practice-specific boot camps with oral argument components, combining substantive experience with structured skills development.

We sequence development across matters—from taking depositions and arguing motions early in an associate's career, to handling dispositive motions on first-impression issues, to examining witnesses before juries and arguing appeals before federal circuit courts. Sophisticated clients back the approach because partners remain accountable for results and invest real time in preparation: moot courts, feedback sessions and strategy discussions.

We pair this courtroom philosophy with investment in the tools reshaping litigation, including firmwide AI training that equips associates with technological fluency alongside their advocacy skills. The results speak for themselves: cases are won, clients are well-served, and we produce litigators who have examined witnesses before juries and won dispositive motions—including a recent win by an associate before the Delaware Court of Chancery. Rather than concentrating courtroom time at the top; we have made building the next generation part of how the practice runs.