

## Rising Star: Latham & Watkins' Chris Campbell

*Law360 (August 1, 2018, 12:48 PM EDT)* -- Latham & Watkins LLP's Chris Campbell has notched important victories for major tech companies — including Toshiba and Oracle — in complex antitrust matters, earning him a spot as one of five competition attorneys under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### **ON THE BIGGEST CASE OF HIS CAREER:**

Campbell represented railroad giant Union Pacific Railroad Co. alongside a small team of Latham & Watkins attorneys beginning in 2013, playing a key role in crafting the oral argument in an antitrust case that took on “cutting-edge class certification issues,” Campbell said.

A group of shippers had accused the U.S.’ four largest railroads in D.C. federal court of conspiring to fix prices through fuel surcharges. But after years of litigation, a federal judge ruled in favor of Union Pacific that the class of shippers cannot certify.

Campbell said he enjoyed the challenge of delving into the depths of those class certification issues, especially as the U.S. Supreme Court handed down key rulings on class certification in *Comcast v. Behrend* and *Tyson Foods v. Bouaphakeo*.

“It felt like a mini-trial in class certification,” Campbell said. “We walked away from it just feeling like we’d really put our best case out there on the table.”

### **WHAT MOTIVATES HIM:**

Campbell said that he most enjoys creating ways to boil down and package highly complex materials into digestible arguments that a judge or jury can easily understand.

**RISING**  
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**STAR**



**Chris Campbell**  
**Latham & Watkins**

**Age:** 35

**Home base:** San Francisco

**Position:** Partner

**Law school:** UCLA School of Law

**First job after law school:** Associate at Latham & Watkins

For example, during the yearslong Union Pacific class certification dispute, he was tasked with learning the ins and outs of econometrics, and strategizing ways to present those facts as “bite-sized pieces” in the oral argument, he said.

“In antitrust, those issues get so complicated, you have to figure out how to package them up and communicate them to someone who doesn’t know as much as you about it,” Campbell said.

**WHY HE’S A COMPETITION LAWYER:**

“I have a pretty varied background, to be honest,” said Campbell, who now primarily focuses on representing tech companies in antitrust litigation.

He began his undergraduate career at the University of California, San Diego on a pre-med track, but said he was deterred by the chemistry courses and ultimately studied history and anthropology.

He said he was drawn to represent tech companies in antitrust matters by the area’s constantly changing landscape, as new products and markets are constantly emerging.

“I wound up gravitating toward antitrust because in part it seemed to me to be very relevant and current,” he said. “You get these problems that haven’t been looked at before, and I found that to be very interesting.”

**OTHER NOTABLE CASES:**

Campbell is currently representing Oracle America Inc. in its 2016 suit accusing Hewlett-Packard Co. of conspiring to distribute copyrighted Oracle software through tech-support companies. Campbell led the effort on the Latham team’s motion to strike, scoring a partial win in that case last year when the federal judge struck down multiple of HP’s affirmative defenses.

Campbell also successfully represented Toshiba Corp. in an antitrust suit accusing the tech giant, along with Samsung Electronics Ltd. and Philips Electronics North America Corp., of conspiring to fix the prices of optical disk drives, the technology behind reading and writing CDs. In December 2017, Toshiba won on summary judgment in the multidistrict litigation.

“That was an interesting one for me because the matter itself had such international reach,” he said.

— *As told to Suzanne Monyak*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2018 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.*