

A Stacked Week of Litigator of the Week Runners-Up

By Ross Todd
February 5, 2021

► Landing the first runner-up spot this week is a team from **Latham & Watkins** who defended American Airlines from an attempt to undo its 2013 merger with US Airways. The firm fended off TRO and injunction attempts from private plaintiffs to block the merger back at the time, but U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane held a weeklong bench trial in what remained of the case in March 2019. Lane rendered a long-awaited decision this week finding that the plaintiffs hadn't met their burden to show that the merger substantially dampened competition in the passenger airline market. Latham partners Dan Wall and **Sadik Huseny** and associates **Britt Lovejoy**, **Aaron Chiu** and **Robin Gushman** all had standup roles at trial.

► Lawyers at **Latham & Watkins** scored a pair of shout out-worthy wins for General Electric this week. On Friday, U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman dismissed most of the claims in a shareholder class action related to GE's long-term care insurance portfolio, the largest action around drops in GE's stock price. Then on Wednesday, the Second Circuit affirmed GE's May 2020 win before U.S. District Judge Denise Cote in a separate securities case—this one related to the company's \$22 billion writedown of power businesses after disclosing a blade defect in its newest line of power plant turbines. The team representing GE is led by partners **Sean Berkowitz**, **BJ Trach**, and of counsel **Miles Ruthberg**, and includes partners **Sarah Tomkowiak** and **Blake Denton**. Partner **Roman Martinez** argued the appeal at the Second Circuit.