

## WASHINGTON LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR

A SPECIAL REPORT

In this special report, *The National Law Journal* takes the measure of litigation shops in our nation's capital. We asked litigation practices there to tell us about their operations—headcounts and revenues, their biggest wins, even their losses. Our staff in Washington and elsewhere in the country scrutinized these data and selected the six firms you'll read about in these pages.

### LATHAM & WATKINS

#### LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: FINALIST

Latham & Watkins thinks of its Washington litigation department as a finely tuned auto-racing team, with a number of highly experienced litigators capable of grabbing the wheel to navigate high-stakes cases in venues across the country.

"Our department is hitting on all cylinders, and we're proud of the number of cylinders—white-collar, antitrust, appellate, general commercial, regulatory," said Everett (Kip) Johnson Jr., a co-chairman of the litigation department in Washington. "We're thriving in all of those areas."

Latham's litigators found themselves at the center of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's squeeze on pharmacies, representing Walgreens Co. in an \$80 million settlement of civil and administrative allegations concerning the distribution of controlled substances.

The firm's litigation team fought a host of high-profile cases before the U.S. Supreme Court during the past year, securing a rare win in a tax case in *U.S. v. Home Concrete & Supply LLC* and landing a landmark decision in the death penalty case *Maples v. Thomas*. Latham partner Gregory Garre, a former U.S. solicitor general, led the defense of the University of Texas in the pivotal affirmative action challenge now pending before the high court.

The firm has done well in state courts, too. There's the win in the South Carolina Supreme Court in November for the Ford Motor Co. that carried industry-wide importance. The case reaffirmed that companies manufacturing vehicles according to federal safety standards won't face state court liability for accidents involving those vehicles. Latham also prevailed in state trial court in New York, representing the soft drink industry against Mayor Michael Bloomberg's push against oversized sugary drinks.

Garre, with Latham partners Claudia O'Brien and Lori Alvino McGill, led the litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit that vacated one of the Environmental Protection Agency's most comprehensive rules, the "Transport Rule," reaffirming statutory limits on the authority of the agency. "We ask everybody to put their team hat on. I think if you look back our cases, you would find a large number of Latham partners working corroboratively on all the aspects of the case." —TODD RUGER

#### FIRM BIO

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Litigation partners              | 184 |
| Litigation partners in D.C.      | 42  |
| Litigation associates            | 414 |
| Litigation associates in D.C.    | 91  |
| Other litigators                 | 25  |
| Other litigators in D.C.         | 7   |
| Litigators as percentage of firm | 31% |
| Litigators as percentage in D.C. | 22% |
| Percentage of firm revenue       | 28% |
| Percentage of D.C. revenue       | 5%  |