

RISING STARS

★ of 2016



**William
Reckler**
Partner
Latham & Watkins

WILLIAM RECKLER co-chairs the litigation and trial department for Latham & Watkins' New York office. He oversees and leads the practice's largest and most high-profile matters for both billable and pro bono clients.

William was initially retained in 2012 to represent the health and fitness company CrossFit, Inc. and its founder in a dispute over a co-owner's attempt to sell her interest to a venture capital firm with incompatible philosophical and business agendas. CrossFit's founder viewed this as an existential threat.

After William prevented that sale, CrossFit retained him in 2014 to sue a competitor, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, for publishing a study that included false data about the injury rate associated with a CrossFit-based exercise program. Will and his team proved that the data in question had been falsified (and that no study participants had been injured through their participation in the study), and the NSCA publicly disclaimed the reported injury rate. The litigation is ongoing.

The 39-year-old Will is a core member of the Latham team that represents Deutsche Bank in the majority of the post-credit crisis civil cases and regulatory investigations related to its residential mortgage-backed securities business. He has led the defense of civil cases including successfully resolving contested litigation with financial insurer Assured Guaranty. Will prevented Assured from expanding the litigation to include unrelated transactions and matters, and in November 2014, he negotiated a complex and favorable settlement of the last remaining case with Assured. Last year, Will negotiated the settlement of an action brought by the Virginia Attorney General, and has led efforts to resolve other claims in advance of litigation.

Will also represents current and former employees of several international banks in connection with investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Justice, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Britain's Financial Services Authority, among others, into alleged manipulation of the LIBOR, ISDAFix, and foreign exchange trading. One of those clients headed the group responsible for his bank's LIBOR submissions for part of the period under investigation, and was closely involved in the bank's LIBOR submission and compliance processes. These investigations have resulted in multi-billion dollar settlements by several banks.

One of the lessons that was drilled into me as a very junior lawyer was how important it was to understand my client's business and their needs and objectives. That has to drive everything you do. That has to drive the legal strategy and not the other way around.

PRO BONO/CIVIC ACTIVITY

Will led Latham's successful 2013 representation of a Louisiana death row inmate that resulted in the client's resentencing. He currently represents a federal inmate in a suit alleging overcrowding and inhumane conditions in an upstate New York prison. And he is counsel to the independent commission, chaired by former chief judge Jonathan Lippmann, that is assessing the New York criminal justice system and Rikers Island jail complex.

EXPERIENCE

- Latham & Watkins, partner, 2012-present; associate, 2002-2011

EDUCATION

- J.D., Harvard Law School, 2002
- A.B., Harvard University, 1999