Shay Dvoretzky



Partner, Washington, D.C.

Supreme Court and Appellate Litigation



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Education

J.D., Yale Law School, 2000 (Coker Fellow; Olin Fellow; William Wang Prize in Corporate Law)

B.A., Yale University, 1995 (summa cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

New York

Experience

Law Clerk, Justice Antonin Scalia U.S. Supreme Court (2001-02)

Law Clerk, Hon. J. Michael Luttig, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Shay Dvoretzky is the head of Skadden's Supreme Court and Appellate Practice. He represents clients in a wide range of appellate matters in the U.S. Supreme Court, federal courts of appeals, and state appellate courts.

Recognized nationally as a leading appellate litigator, Mr. Dvoretzky has argued 19 cases in the Supreme Court. He has been one of the most active practitioners before the Supreme Court in recent years, arguing three cases during the Court's 2022 Term and two more at the start of the Court's current Term. Mr. Dvoretzky's recent Supreme Court victories include:

- Merck v. Albrecht, in which he persuaded the Court to hold that a judge, not a jury, should assess a federal preemption defense, and should do so using ordinary, not heightened, legal standards (*The American Lawyer* discussed the case in naming Mr. Dvoretzky a 2019 Litigator of the Year, noting that he has "paved his way through the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeals with numerous unanimous wins.")
- *GE Energy v. Outokumpu*, in which he convinced the Court to hold that international arbitration agreements under the New York Convention should be treated on an equal footing with domestic ones under the Federal Arbitration Act (including as to enforcement by nonsignatories)
- *Rotkiske v. Klemm*, in which he persuaded the Court to reject a presumption applying the discovery rule to federal statutes of limitation
- Caniglia v. Strom, in which he persuaded the Court to unanimously hold that the so-called "community caretaking" exception to the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement does not extend to the home

Mr. Dvoretzky has briefed and argued dozens of cases across virtually all federal courts of appeals. His work has spanned many substantive areas, including constitutional law, administrative law, antitrust, arbitration, bankruptcy, labor and employment, ERISA, tax, telecommunications, securities, preemption, energy, intellectual property, and criminal defense, as well as various complex statutory questions. He also leverages his appellate experience to counsel clients on key strategic issues at the trial level, and to brief and argue dispositive motions with an eye toward appeal. Mr. Dvoretzky's recent wins in the federal courts of appeals include:

- *Eaton Corp. v. Commissioner*, in which he secured a groundbreaking victory for Eaton Corporation in Sixth Circuit transfer-pricing cross-appeals with more than \$350 million at stake, creating important precedent for other corporations facing retroactive action by the IRS
- Hunstein v. Preferred Collection & Management Services, in which he convinced the en banc Eleventh Circuit, on behalf of Preferred Collection & Management Services, to order the district court to dismiss the plaintiff's Fair Debt Collection Practices Act claim for lack of Article III standing in a first-of-its-kind opinion after the Supreme Court's decision in *TransUnion LLC v. Ramirez* (2021)
- Airlines for America v. City & County of San Francisco, in which he persuaded the Ninth Circuit to hold that civil penalties can make government action regulatory and subject it to federal preemption, and to remand the case for the district court to consider Airlines for America's preemption arguments

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- American Cruise Lines v. United States, in which he secured a victory for Viking USA LLC in the Second Circuit, which held that the U.S. Maritime Administration reasonably determined that a lease of a vessel allowed Viking to operate cruises along the Mississippi River, and that the agency complied with its noticeand-comment requirements — a question of first impression in the courts of appeals
- Macomb County Employees' Retirement System v. Align Technology, in which he obtained a complete victory for Align Technology before the Ninth Circuit in an appeal involving a securities fraud class action brought by Align stockholders

Mr. Dvoretzky was named one of America's Top 200 Lawyers by Forbes in 2024. He also is recognized in Chambers USA, in which clients call him a "tremendous strategist" who "delivers thoughtful and persuasive arguments that captivate the justices' attention and command their respect." Clients in *Chambers* also commend his ability "to effortlessly reduce mind-numbingly complex legal problems to straightforward and easy-to-follow propositions." Clients told The Legal 500, which ranks Mr. Dvoretzky a "leading lawyer," that he is a "superb brief writer" who "handles oral arguments with grace and ease" and is "always prepared for all potential lines of questioning." He has been recognized repeatedly as an Appellate MVP by Law360, named to The National Law Journal's Appellate Hot List, and chosen as one of Lawdragon's 500 Leading Litigators in America. In addition, he has been honored as a Litigation Trailblazer by the NLJ and profiled in Bloomberg Law's inaugural edition of Pro Bono Innovators. According to a recent study of Supreme Court practitioners in the last five years, Mr. Dvoretzky ranks in the uppermost echelon of advocates by number of arguments before the Court and has the highest rate of cert grants of any of these elite practitioners. Mr. Dvoretzky is a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and a member of the American Law Institute, the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Administrative Law & Regulatory Litigation Committee.

He has an active pro bono practice that includes criminal, immigration, and constitutional cases, including his recent Supreme Court victory in Caniglia v. Strom, which restricted the authority of police to enter homes without a warrant.

Before joining Skadden, Mr. Dvoretzky was a partner in the appellate practice at another global law firm. Previously, he clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge J. Michael Luttig of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.