

## DISTINGUISHED LEADERS



### Jay Kasner

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**What are some of your proudest recent achievements?**

**I** have recently represented the underwriters of Petrobras (co-counsel represented Petrobras) in a Second Circuit case of first impression stemming from the Brazilian

"Lavo Jato" corruption investigation. Relying on issues raised in *Morrison v. National Australia Bank*, I successfully argued for reversal of class certification in a ruling that makes it more difficult for plaintiffs to bring claims against nonexchange traded securities in the U.S. This marked the first time a circuit court applied *Morrison* at the class certification stage in a securities action and the impact will be groundbreaking.

Also before the Second Circuit, I recently represented Vivint Solar, certain of its officers and directors and the Blackstone Group in a case of first impression arising from Vivint's 2014 IPO. The decision created a circuit split and set a standard for determining whether to disclose interim financial information in an IPO.

**What does it mean to be a leader? To me, leaders set an example for everyone around them**, both professionally and personally, work hard and approach every task—even the smallest ones—with dedication and enthusiasm.

As head of Skadden's nationwide securities litigation practice, I strive to embody these tenets in everything I do, and encourage my group to do the same. Our "roll up your sleeves" approach is what keeps clients

happy and sustains our reputation as a powerhouse in the securities litigation field.

**Name a lawyer or mentor whose leadership inspired you. I have been fortunate to work with many inspiring people** throughout my career, so it is difficult to pick just one. My colleague and fellow partner, Robert Zimet, is certainly someone who comes to my mind quickly. Bob is a star litigator with tremendous judgment and skill. He provided me with extraordinary amounts of responsibility and experience as we worked together on some of the most groundbreaking corporate takeovers of all time.

**How are the business and profession of law changing, and how should lawyers adapt for the future? In an increasingly global litigation landscape, it is more important than ever to understand how significant geography is in**

shaping clients' expectations and business objectives.

Another change worth noting is the impact of technology on litigation. We have seen dramatic developments over the years that have shaped the litigation landscape. It is important to stay on top of these developments and utilize the latest technologies to remain at the cutting edge of our field.

**What is the best advice for someone considering a career in law, or someone already in the profession who is seeking to make a greater impact? From the very start of your career, seek out a mentor who shows integrity and uncompromised ethical standards.** Always fight above your weight class, and try to take on significant roles in high-stakes matters. Establish direct relationships with clients and take an active interest in developing a vibrant practice at the start of your career—it will pay off hugely down the line.