



LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: GENERAL, WINNER

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM

Q&A **What are some of the department's most satisfying successes of the past year and why?** Given the extraordinary issues business faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are proud that Skadden continued resolving clients' greatest litigation challenges with solutions that align with their business goals. This past year, our most satisfying litigation successes involved market-defining business combinations, including representing Sprint in defeating the antitrust merger challenge filed by attorneys general of 13 states and the District of Columbia against the company's merger with T-Mobile after a two-week bench trial in federal court. We also counseled LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton in expedited litigation involving one of the first COVID-19-related material adverse event claims stemming from its \$15.9 billion merger with Tiffany & Co.—the largest-ever in the luxury sector and represented Neuberger Berman Group LLC in securing multiple fast-tracked wins in various courts, paving the way to create a new public company, Blue Owl, with \$45 billion in assets.

We also achieved success globally, including representing Devas Multimedia Private



From left (sitting), partners Patrick Rideout, Lara Flath and Alexander Drylewski; (standing) partners Jennifer Permesly and Lauren Aguiar.

Limited in securing the confirmation of a \$1.3 billion award owed by Antrix Corporation stemming from its long-running arbitration over wrongful termination of an agreement to lease satellites and associated spectrum, Qatar Football Association in combatting a challenge to its historic soccer victory in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup and certain HSBC entities in securing the dismissal of a putative antitrust class action that clarifies U.S. courts' reach over foreign banks when alleged misconduct takes place abroad.

Our team also secured high-profile appellate wins on behalf of Spencer Capital Limited and Spencer Capital Holdings Ltd.; a series of wins for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, arising from a one-of-a-

kind, billion-dollar structured finance transaction; a Third Circuit post-trial affirmance for BlackRock, Inc. in one of the largest—if not the largest—cases involving claims against mutual funds; and victories on behalf of FedEx and Nokia, among many others.

A prospective client in crisis calls and asks why your team should be retained. What is your answer? Our dedication to client service, with an emphasis on creativity, collaboration and efficiency, has resulted in a proven record of success that keeps clients coming back to us and also leads new clients to knock on our door. Our experience navigating clients through their most novel and complex legal issues positions us well to create smart, unique strategies throughout the course of litigation, particularly when faced with unprecedented and unforeseen challenges. Our litigators are experienced in handling “bet-the-company” cases that demand a diverse range of skills, in and out of the courtroom.

What traits do you respect most in opposing firms and lawyers? We most respect adversaries who litigate vigorously, while maintaining the highest respect for the legal profession and commitment to shaping and refining the law. We also are deeply com-

mitted to staffing our matters with diverse teams, and we respect firms that share the same values.

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm? We are proud that over 90% of the firm’s New York litigation partners began their careers as Skadden associates, and we believe that our retention rate underscores our commitment to professional development, mentoring and career prospects. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our one-of-a-kind in-house jury and trial consulting team quickly assembled training opportunities for all New York litigators, including our junior attorneys, on best practices for conducting virtual proceedings, including tips for conducting virtual trials and depositions, arguing motions and holding virtual hearings. This unique training paid off, as our litigators handled at least 16 remote trials between April 2020 and April 2021. Our trial consulting team also worked with our lawyers from the early stages of a matter to craft winning strategies and provide instruction and guidance on current best practices in trial strategy.

Responses prepared by Skadden’s New York Litigation Group.