

Law360 Names Top 50 Firms For Litigation

By *Jacqueline Bell*

Law360, New York (July 26, 2016, 11:03 PM ET) -- Historic, precedent-setting wins in class action litigation. Jaw-dropping jury verdicts in courts across the country. Victories in the smartphone wars. Dramatic upsets on appeal. Law360's Litigation Powerhouses leveraged their deep legal talent to score remarkable wins for their clients over the past year, landing them a spot on our inaugural ranking of the top firms for litigation.

The law firms on Law360's list of Litigation Powerhouses were chosen by examining the size of the firm's litigation teams, as well as the outstanding victories those teams netted between March 1, 2015, and March 1, 2016, whether it was a multimillion-dollar verdict in a high-profile battle, a dramatic reversal in a precedential case before a federal appeals court or a successful resolution of a bet-the-company suit just before trial.

While Law360's ranking does consider the size of the litigation teams the firms are able to staff, it's more than size that counts. Law360 editors also weighed the nature of the litigation victories those teams were able to score for clients at trial, on appeal, or in pretrial dismissals over the past year, and eyed the new matters clients have tapped the firm to handle in recent months, choosing the firms that consistently leveraged a deep bench into outstanding wins.

The 50 firms on our list of Litigation Powerhouses racked up some remarkable triumphs over the past year: Kirkland & Ellis LLP's win at the U.S. Supreme Court on arbitration clauses, Sidley Austin LLP's smartphone score for Microsoft Corp., Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP's mortgage crisis victory and Gibson Dunn's billion-dollar verdict in a counterfeiting fight, among many others, securing these firms spots on Law360's inaugural ranking of the top firms for litigation.

The firms selected are:

Litigation Powerhouses

Rank	Firm Name
1	Kirkland & Ellis
2	Sidley Austin

3	Quinn Emanuel
4	Gibson Dunn
5	Orrick
6	Latham & Watkins
7	Hogan Lovells
8	Winston & Strawn
9	Morgan Lewis
10	King & Spalding
11	Covington & Burling
12	Skadden
13	Cooley
14	Boies Schiller
15	Morrison & Foerster
16	WilmerHale
17	Vinson & Elkins
18	Arnold & Porter
19	Williams & Connolly
20	Weil Gotshal
21	White & Case
22	Fish & Richardson
23	Sheppard Mullin
24	McGuireWoods

25	Ropes & Gray
26	Greenberg Traurig
27	Squire Patton Boggs
28	O'Melveny & Myers
29	Steptoe & Johnson LLP
30	Dechert
31	Lieff Cabraser
32	Hughes Hubbard
33	DLA Piper
34	Sullivan & Cromwell
35	Perkins Coie
36	Faegre Baker Daniels
37	Shook Hardy
38	Shearman & Sterling
39	Bracewell
40	Kaye Scholer
41	Norton Rose Fulbright
42	Paul Weiss
43	K&L Gates
44	Dentons
45	Davis Polk
46	Baker Botts

47	Robins Kaplan
48	Cravath
49	Jenner & Block
50	Kramer Levin

Kirkland & Ellis grabbed the top spot on the list by turning a tough fight over arbitration clauses into a win at the Supreme Court for DirectTV, notching dramatic wins in the smartphone patent wars, finally shutting down challenges to a billion-dollar verdict the firm obtained in one of the highest profile, longest-running conflicts in the history of patent law, and scoring a eye-catching multimillion-dollar verdict in a trade secrets fight for a small family business against a Fortune 100 giant.

Many of the firms on Law360's Litigation Powerhouses ranking pulled victories out of hard-fought, high-stakes patent brawls including Quinn Emanuel's dramatic upset at the Federal Circuit in favor of its client Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. in the technology giant's yearslong patent battle with Apple Inc., and Sidley Austin's win for Microsoft at the Ninth Circuit in a landmark dispute over licensing standard-essential patents.

Sidley Austin also scored significant appellate victories in a pitched battle between branded-drug maker AstraZeneca PLC and a generic-drug maker over the blockbuster drug Prilosec.

But not all the remarkable victories were secured in brawls between corporate behemoths.

Quinn Emmanuel also scored an \$806 million win while representing the Federal Housing Finance Agency in a historic partnership between a government regulator and a private law firm seeking damages related to the mortgage crisis.

Last June, Boies Schiller & Flexner LLP scored a final judgment of \$663 million — the largest ever award for a whistleblower bringing a case without the help of the U.S. Department of Justice — in a suit claiming that Trinity Industries Inc. dangerously altered the design of highway guardrail end terminals without government approval.

Noted plaintiffs firm Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP secured a final approval in November of a historic \$100 million settlement with major American cigarette manufacturers on behalf of injured Florida smokers or their families, the result of hard-fought battles over a number of years.

Legal victories don't always need to come along with big dollar signs, but when they do, these law firms were often on the winning side. Gibson Dunn won a \$1.035 billion judgment for Nike Inc. and Converse Inc. against Chinese counterfeiters who had operated hundreds of websites targeting customers in the U.S.

Employment disputes also figured into many of these law firms' high-profile work over the past year. In one of the most closely watched examples, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP achieved a decisive victory for venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers LLC in a \$100 million gender bias suit brought by a former junior partner.

Starting next week and running through Aug. 26, Law360 will publish daily profiles of the 20 firms that top our inaugural ranking of top firms for litigation, detailing their outstanding victories over the past year and examining the strategies and tactics they used to come out on top of the biggest legal battles of the past year.

Methodology: Law360 surveyed law firms on their litigator headcounts, as well as litigation victories and new legal work they secured between March 1, 2015, and March 1, 2016. Headcounts are as of March 1, 2016. Firms are ranked based on three factors: the total number of litigators and litigation partners, notable wins in litigation between March 1, 2015, and March 1, 2016 and the significant new cases the firm was hired to work on over the same time period. To be counted as a member of the litigation group, an attorney must spend at least 75 percent of his or her time on litigation matters. For the purposes of this survey, "litigation" includes domestic and international litigation, as well as litigation in special venues such as administrative courts, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, the Court of Federal Claims, the International Trade Commission, domestic and international arbitration and bankruptcy litigation.

--Editing by Katherine Rautenberg and Kelly Duncan.

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