

APPELLATE HOT LIST



A SPECIAL REPORT

We've identified 20 firms with outstanding achievements before the U.S. Supreme Court, federal circuit courts and state courts of last resort. The range of matters they handled were vast—from same-sex marriage to big-bank class actions to intellectual property battles. We asked our readers to nominate firms with at least one significant appellate win since January 2013 and with an impressive track record overall. To settle upon the firms listed below, we supplemented that material with our own reporting.

JONES DAY

APPELLATE HOT LIST



DIEGO M. RADZINSKI

Jones Day

former Jones Day partner. “The theories are creative, and the wins are newsworthy.”

In the Supreme Court, the firm won cases including last term’s *National Labor Relations Board v. Noel Canning*, which limited presidential power in making recess appointments.

Two other cases that concluded this year

highlighted the practice group’s moxie. The firm represented itself on appeal in relation to the bankruptcy cases of the law firms Coudert Brothers and Heller Ehrman. Jones Day decided it was in as good a position as any firm to defend itself from unfinished-business claims related to poaching laterals from the now-defunct partnerships. “We all worked together to try to tee up issues in the lower courts that we knew would be decided on appeal,” said Shay Dvoretzky, a Washington-based appellate partner. “That all culminated in the last year.” Dvoretzky argued both cases—the Coudert case in New York and the

Heller case in San Francisco—within a day of one another.

Jones Day also found itself in the middle of the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, as lead counsel to the city of Detroit. The appellate team focused on strategy against challenges over a bankruptcy court’s jurisdiction in the Chapter 9 restructuring. When court was in session in Detroit, the firm had a war room nearby for its lawyers. But the efforts extended far beyond and into about a half-dozen of Jones Day’s offices. Issues and appeals practice leader Beth Heifetz worked on the case. It never reached the appellate level, and a judge approved the city’s plan to exit bankruptcy Nov. 7.

“It took a lot of coordinating, and we had terrific people making sure issues were accounted for,” she said.

In Washington, Jones Day’s appellate group is strengthening its ranks. The firm spent more than \$2 million in hiring bonuses this year to nab seven former U.S. Supreme Court law clerks as associates. Those associates join 12 former Supreme Court clerks hired in 2013 and 2012, the most a firm in Washington has hired in recent memory. —KATELYN POLANTZ

This is what an appellate practice on fire looks like: Five U.S. Supreme Court case successes in two terms, two law firm bankruptcy clawback situations avoided, and Washington’s largest collection of recent U.S. Supreme Court clerks.

Few would be surprised to see Jones Day included among top appellate practices, but the way the firm nailed nearly everything its issues and appeals practice group encountered in 2013 and 2014 has been special.

“There’s a spirit of courageousness, a spirit of boldness or creativity, that the firm really promotes in its lawyers,” said Lily Claffee, U.S. Chamber of Commerce general counsel and a