

# THE AMERICAN LAWYER

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**LITIGATOR  
OF THE YEAR  
WINNER**

## JONATHAN POLKES

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Jonathan Polkes is one of those litigators ready to take on any case, on any subject, in any venue. He proved that, over the past two years while handling cases worth billions of dollars and leveraging his transactional expertise in the courtroom. Polkes handled cases from Switzerland to Delaware, New York to Tennessee and before the SEC and SCOTUS. In the process, he made new law regarding material adverse effect clauses and standing, squared off against the NRA in a landmark First Amendment suit and resolved cases implicating COVID, 1MDB and the Stanford Ponzi scheme. Polkes' recent wins were a testament to his and Weil Gotshal's strong blend of private equity experience and litigation savvy. As the pandemic took hold, for example, Polkes was called in for PE heavyweight the Carlyle Group to get out of a billion-dollar deal to acquire a travel services business. He laid a framework for how parties should negotiate material adverse effects.

