

MVP: Weil's Arianna Scavetti

By **Mike Curley**

Law360 (November 25, 2025, 4:03 PM EST) -- Arianna Scavetti of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP has secured wins for clients like PepsiCo Inc. and KeVita Inc., getting claims about plastic waste, ultra-processed ingredients and prebiotics dismissed, earning her a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 Product Liability MVPs.

Her biggest accomplishment this year:

Scavetti said helping some of the biggest food and beverage clients in the country navigate their litigation issues is a privilege, with one PepsiCo case — a suit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James against Pepsi and Frito-Lay over plastic waste in the Buffalo River — standing out.

Scavetti said the case was a challenge for the company as it has been working hard on sustainability and making progress on plastic-related issues, but it then faced litigation over plastic instead of having its efforts recognized.

Scavetti and her team were able to secure dismissal by successfully arguing the state couldn't hold the company liable for how others dispose of the plastic products, with the judge calling James' strategy "selective prosecution based on a naive theory."

"While everyone agrees that plastic pollution is a challenge and should be addressed, holding a single company or two companies responsible for individuals' decisions to litter is not the way to address the problem," she said. "It was very gratifying to see a court recognize that there are some challenges that don't lend themselves to litigation against one company or a handful of companies."

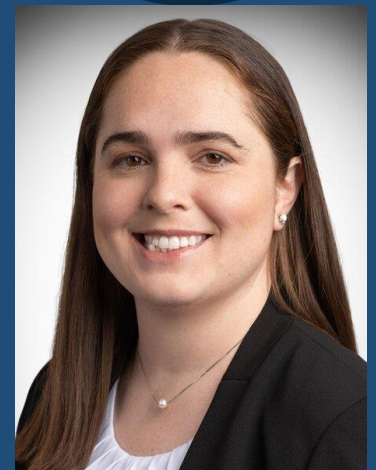
Her biggest challenge this year:

Representing PepsiCo in another suit — this time over so-called ultra-processed foods and claims the foods are addictive to children and can cause chronic disease — was a challenge, Scavetti said, with the topic receiving attention from legislators and policymakers.

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Arianna Scavetti

Weil

She said her clients have to navigate frequent changes in the industry, with new laws at the state level and federal policymakers talking strategies for the regulation of certain products.

Scavetti and her team are working on getting this "first-of-its-kind" lawsuit dismissed, arguing that the plaintiff's health issues can't be tied to the foods and drinks he's consumed, let alone to PepsiCo's products.

"Helping the company navigate this high-profile and constantly shifting landscape has been challenging, but it's also the type of cutting-edge work that ends up being a lot of fun to do," she said.

Her proudest moment this year:

Scavetti said securing a victory for KeVita in a suit claiming that its sparkling lemonade misrepresents its prebiotic qualities was a proud moment, as she was able to get a decision that defended the science of the product.

In the case, the plaintiffs argued that the lemonade didn't have enough prebiotics to promote gut health the way the labeling claimed, but Scavetti said her team was able to show that the study the plaintiffs cited did not state a minimum amount of prebiotics needed to get health benefits, only an "ideal" amount.

She told Law360 that her team was able to demonstrate to the court that it was inaccurate to say the study disproved the product's claims, and the plaintiff's case couldn't rest on that study alone.

"That was a key part of the brief on the motion to dismiss, and my argument on the motion to dismiss was taking the court through the science, and that showed up in the court's order," she said. "The court did take a close look at the study and agreed with our interpretation of the study."

Why she's a product liability attorney:

Scavetti told Law360 that she got into the practice after working as a summer associate on a case involving food and beverage labeling, and while other cases were based on "amorphous" or "theoretical" concepts, the food and beverage cases were based in real-life experiences.

"It's about, how do regular people go to the grocery store and buy food and beverage products, and what do they think about when they purchase them?" she said. "How do they understand labels, how do they use them in real life? And that is what's kept me doing this work for more than 10 years now. I love how real and relatable it feels."

What motivates her:

Helping clients solve problems is what keeps Scavetti going, she said, adding that she feels fortunate to work with some of the biggest and best food and beverage clients in the country, such as PepsiCo and Chobani LLC.

Working with them allows her to help them grow their portfolio and improve products that she has and uses, she noted.

"They are doing really cool and really innovative work to develop and evolve their products, and I get to help them do that," she said. "I get to help them think about how to improve or contribute to

sustainability efforts, to think about ingredient evolution and what kinds of new sweeteners we can use, or what kinds of prebiotics might give benefits."

Her advice for junior attorneys:

Scavetti said that understanding a client's business is important to growing one's career, saying attorneys are there to be problem solvers for those clients, and they can't do that effectively if they only think of the job as a "series of tasks."

Instead, she said, attorneys should learn all they can about their clients' business, industry, challenges and goals.

"If you have that broader view, you are going to be a much better adviser to them, and you'll be able to see how all the pieces fit together," she said. "That's how you build the kinds of client partnerships and relationships that last over several years, and that I've been fortunate to have with PepsiCo, Tropicana and others."

--As told to Mike Curley. Editing by Kristen Becker.

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.