

Rising Star: Weil's Robert Niles-Weed

By **Ben Zigterman**

Law360 (August 28, 2026, 4:03 PM EDT) -- Robert Niles-Weed of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP secured a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2023 with significant ramifications for bankruptcy law and has already been named co-head of the firm's appellate practice, earning him a spot among the appellate law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

The biggest case of his career:

In 2023, Niles-Weed helped secure a 9-0 Supreme Court win for a California man fighting to recover losses from a woman whose husband didn't disclose leaks and other defects about a house they flipped and sold to the man. In a decision issued by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, the high court found that debt incurred by fraud cannot be discharged through a Chapter 7 bankruptcy even if a debtor isn't culpable for the fraud.

As an appellate lawyer who has clerked for Justice Elena Kagan, Niles-Weed said the case was particularly meaningful because he also has a strong interest in bankruptcy law.

"It's something that brought me to Weil, and getting to marry that bankruptcy side of my work with the Supreme Court and appellate practice was really a capstone of some of the work we've been doing here in our group," he said.

The case has important ramifications both for the specific issue of the ability to discharge debt for fraud committed by a partner and more generally as a way to interpret other exceptions to discharging debt, Niles-Weed said.

"That decision has had and will continue to have reverberations in other areas of bankruptcy practice," he said.

The biggest case he's worked on lately:

2026



**Robert Niles-Weed
Weil**

Age: 37

Home base: New York

Position: Partner and co-head of the firm's appeals and strategic counseling practice

Law school: Harvard Law School

First job after law school: Clerk for U.S. District Judge J. Paul Oetken in the Southern District of New York

In addition to his work on appellate cases, Niles-Weed also serves as appellate counsel to Weil's trial teams. As part of this, he helped Regeneron secure a \$406.8 million judgment in June 2025 after a jury found that a competitor illegally undercut the price of Regeneron's anticholesterol drug Praluent.

Niles-Weed said this case was interesting both because of the legal issues involved and because of the integration of his appellate skills into the case from its earliest stages.

"I came on pre-complaint and was involved in the filing of the complaint all the way through — we took the case to trial and got a jury verdict, and now through post-trial briefing," he said. "It has been exciting to me to play an active role in shaping a case from the beginning all the way to a successful outcome."

How the industry will change in the next decade:

Niles-Weed believes the integration of appellate teams into trial teams will become more common.

"Historically, an appellate lawyer wouldn't come on until after there had been an outcome in the trial court," he said. "And now, I think we're able to add a ton of value by being at trial, drafting key motions in the district court or bankruptcy court, and so deepening our involvement to help strengthen the case from the jump."

While this integration could be challenging, Niles-Weed said it has gone well so far at Weil.

"It is hard to do right because it requires a really careful integration of perhaps teams who don't ordinarily work together who bring different skill sets to the table, so I think about it as much of a cultural challenge and imperative as it is a practical one," he said. "We've been lucky that our culture at Weil is strong across the litigation department and across the firm that we're able to really work quite seamlessly together."

Why he chose appellate law:

Niles-Weed said he likes the challenge of solving clients' hard problems, especially after clerking for Justice Kagan and Judge David S. Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

"That really honed the interest in the appellate work," he said.

Appellate cases often deal with clients facing thorny legal issues, Niles-Weed said.

"I like solving hard problems, and I like doing it by being strategic about using the law and advocacy and writing to help tell stories, to help frame up issues, and really navigate the thorniness of legal and practical questions that our clients are confronting," he said. "We're really on the front lines of that type of high-intensity, high-stakes problem-solving that I like to do."

He has quickly moved up the ranks at Weil, where he is now co-head of the firm's appeals and strategic counseling practice and a member of the firm's complex commercial litigation practice. Niles-Weed said his promotion to co-head has been his proudest moment as an attorney.

"Being named co-head relatively early in my career meant a lot to me because I think it reflected Weil's willingness to believe in the next generation of leaders," he said.

--As told to Ben Zigterman. Editing by Patrick Reagan.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2026 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2026, to be eligible for this year's award.

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