

## Securities Group Of The Year: Weil

By **Rose Krebs**

*Law360 (February 24, 2026, 4:00 PM EST)* -- Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP's attorneys secured a win for chipmaker Silicon Motion Technology Corp. in a securities fraud class action over a busted \$3.8 billion merger, earning it a spot among the 2025 Law360 Securities Practice Groups of the Year.

One of the "crown jewels" of Weil's litigation department, the securities litigation practice is adept at handling high-profile cases such as Silicon Motion's, according to John A. Neuwirth, co-chair of the firm's global litigation department.

"Our securities litigation team offers full-spectrum counseling across litigation, regulatory, corporate governance and transactional matters, providing our global clients with the expertise needed to resolve critical business and securities law issues," he told Law360.

In July, Weil attorneys secured a victory for Silicon Motion, its CEO and another senior executive when a California federal judge threw out a proposed class action accusing it and semiconductor company MaxLinear of misleading investors about a \$3.8 billion merger that fell through.

"In dismissing the securities fraud claims against the Silicon Motion defendants, the district court concluded that the plaintiffs failed to plead both falsity and scienter because, among other things, they failed to plead particularized facts to substantiate their allegations," Caroline Zalka, head of Weil's securities litigation practice, told Law360.

The firm drew on its "expertise in merger litigation disputes and strong experience handling securities class actions" in representing Silicon Motion, she added.

In an interview, Zalka told Law360 that the win came from "a global effort" that demonstrates the group's ability to coordinate with colleagues across the firm's corporate department.

Another example of Weil's collaborative strength is its work defending cryptocurrency company Digital Currency Group, or DCG, and its CEO Barry Silbert in multiple suits, Zalka told Law360. The suits at issue involved "an alleged 'sham transaction' designed to conceal a \$1.1 billion loss by subsidiary Genesis Global Capital," according to the firm.



One of them, filed by a group of lenders in Connecticut federal court, has a pending motion to dismiss. In another, a New York federal judge in January 2025 tossed fraud claims against DCG and Silbert lodged by Roger Ver, an entrepreneur sometimes referred to as "Bitcoin Jesus," who, according to Weil, had a trading relationship with Genesis.

"We were able to secure the dismissal in the 'Bitcoin Jesus' case by demonstrating that Digital Currency Group had no direct interaction with Mr. Ver and that he couldn't establish any aspect of reliance on statements by DCG," Zalka said. "It was a gratifying result and yet another example of our group's leadership in cryptocurrency-related litigation."

In another notable case, Weil said it secured "a Second Circuit affirmation of a significant victory for clients LAL Family Corp. and LAL Family Partners — affiliates of the Leonard Lauder family — in a novel Section 16(b) case brought against them and nominal defendant The Estée Lauder Companies."

In May, a Second Circuit panel rejected a novel theory in ruling that controlling shareholders who sell stock at a time when their company is conducting a share repurchase program cannot be sued to recoup so-called short-swing profits.

The appellate court said a provision of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that requires corporate insiders to return short-swing profits to the corporation does not apply when the party buying the shares is the corporation.

"The plaintiff's theory in the case would have significantly expanded the universe of transactions actionable under Section 16(b), imposing strict liability on insiders for transactions beyond their control," Zalka said. "We were very proud to secure the full dismissal with prejudice in the [Southern District of New York] and subsequent affirmation in the Second Circuit, solidifying a key precedent."

Such cases demonstrate the subject matter expertise of the roughly 55-attorney practice group at Weil, Zalka and Neuwirth said.

The securities litigation group is also adept at handling litigation in Delaware's nationally important corporate law courts, Neuwirth said. Tripadvisor and AMC Entertainment are among the clients for which Weil attorneys scored recent wins in Delaware.

In February 2025, Delaware's Supreme Court reversed a Chancery Court ruling that had kept alive a stockholder suit contesting Tripadvisor's decision to move its legal domicile from Delaware to Nevada.

In October 2024, a vice chancellor dismissed a proposed class action by AMC stockholders who asserted that the value of their shares was wrongly reduced per a 2023 settlement related to what had been a hotly contested share conversion and reverse split.

Delaware's high court affirmed the Chancery Court's dismissal of the stock dilution suit in May 2025.

"We are particularly proud of our recognized expertise in Delaware practice and the excellent reputation we have forged there among key constituencies, which we believe is unique among the major New York and national firms," Neuwirth said.

Zalka told Law360 that one of the reasons for the group's success is that its attorneys are mentored from "day one" to gain specialized expertise and work as a team.

She said what sets the practice apart is that it is not made up of "generalist litigators who focus on different types of disputes," but rather its "sole focus is litigation and investigations implicating the securities laws."

"Our team is regularly called upon by some of the world's most sophisticated companies to defend them in securities fraud class action litigation," Zalka said, "and we have an excellent track record of defeating these claims early in the litigation process and upholding victories on appeal."

--Additional reporting by Rae Ann Varona, Jessica Corso and Jeff Montgomery. Editing by Adam LoBelia.

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