MVP: Weil's Yehudah Buchweitz

By Britain Eakin · Listen to article

Law360 (November 5, 2026, 4:00 PM EST) -- Yehudah Buchweitz of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP's litigation department helped CBS settle its dispute with Sony over distribution rights for "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy!" and helped PlayOn Sports defeat an attempt to extend name, image and likeness antitrust claims to high school sports media companies, earning him a spot as one of the 2026 Law360 Media & Entertainment MVPs.



His biggest accomplishment:

Buchweitz represented CBS Studios in a multibillion-dollar dispute that threatened CBS' distribution rights for popular long-running game shows "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy!" In November, the parties reached a deal allowing CBS to remain the exclusive domestic distributor of the shows through the 2027-2028 season.

Throughout the litigation, Buchweitz and his team acted quickly to win favorable relief for CBS. They won their client a temporary restraining order at the outset of the litigation after Sony accused CBS in an October 2024 complaint of engaging in unauthorized foreign licensing deals in New Zealand and Australia while failing to maximize advertising revenue.

That was a particularly challenging feat since Sony produced the shows and, therefore, "held a lot of the cards," Buchweitz said.

While the district court later denied CBS' bid for a preliminary injunction, allowing Sony to assume distribution, Buchweitz helped persuade California's Second Appellate District to grant a stay that halted the lower court order during CBS' appeal.

Buchweitz said the team considered the possibility of losing the preliminary injunction and prepared for that scenario so they could move quickly if they needed to appeal.

"In cases like this, and in many other cases in my career, you have to prepare for everything. So we were ready," he said. "We knew what we had to do. We knew how fast we had to do it."

Another notable case:

On Jan. 9, Buchweitz helped secure dismissal of antitrust claims against PlayOn Sports brought by high school athlete Dominik Calhoun, who accused the California Interscholastic Federation and its business partners in the media, including PlayOn, of reaping immense profit off the state's high school sports scene while sharing none of it with the players.

Calhoun alleged that the federation and its rules curtailed athletes' ability to earn money from their own name, image and likeness. The antitrust claims mirrored the central claims of various high-profile antitrust cases against the NCAA that were recently litigated in California courts.

Had the claims against PlayOn been successful, Buchweitz said, it could have exposed state athletic associations and media companies to sweeping antitrust liability related to high school sports. According to Buchweitz, the team had to persuade the court why Calhoun's case differed from those in which college athletes won the right to be compensated.

"The biggest challenge was looking in the face of this other precedent and saying, 'No, that's not us, and that's not this, and explaining that to the court,'" he said.

After Buchweitz and his team defeated Calhoun's claims, the plaintiff agreed not to renew his claims against PlayOn, ending any potential liability for the company.

Why he's a media and entertainment lawyer:

When he was in law school, Buchweitz spent a semester working for the late Justice Ira Gammerman, who served on the Commercial Division of the New York County Supreme Court. Buchweitz didn't know it then, but that experience would help him inadvertently make a splash during his first year at Weil in a case where the firm represented ESPN.

The firm was nervous about having lost a motion to dismiss in a long-running case involving the sports broadcasting giant before Justice Gammerman.

But Buchweitz said he noticed a discrepancy in the citations in the case that differed from the judge's usual style that made him confident the Weil team could ultimately prevail. He communicated that to head of the litigation department at the time, along with what he knew about Judge Gammerman, and was asked to go to court for an upcoming proceeding in the case.

At the court, the bailiff and clerk both greeted Buchweitz warmly. And he said the litigation team had a favorable outcome that day.

That all made an impression on the partner he accompanied to court, who Buchweitz said became his mentor that day.

"In the car ride home, he told me no matter what I was doing, every time he went to court on that case, I was coming with him," Buchweitz said. "The case went to trial — it was the first trial I was involved in as an attorney — and our team won before a jury. That started a string of cases for ESPN, CBS and others and was my start in media and entertainment law."

What he's most proud of:

While Buchweitz is proud of the wins for his clients from this past year, he said he's most proud of having long-standing clients he's worked with for years, some of whom have sent new clients his way.

He's also proud that he is able to take on so many complex matters all at once, he said, something he attributed to having strong, talented colleagues and close collaboration

with clients.

"I'm very proud to have those kinds of people with me," he said.

What motivates him:

Buchweitz said he loves the business element of his work and relishes getting wins for clients and helping them solve complex problems. But he also enjoys mentoring junior attorneys and doing pro bono work on religious liberty issues for the Jewish community.

Buchweitz said he has benefited greatly from mentors — some of whom he still calls for advice today. In turn, he himself has anywhere from eight to 10 mentees through the firm's official mentoring program, but said he takes on just as many unofficial mentees at any given time.

In addition to First Amendment work, Buchweitz has also done pro bono work on Violence Against Women Act matters, trusts and veterans compensation.

Some of that work he's done with his clients, which he said improved those relationships.

"It's a great way to connect personally," he said. "Also, for a lot of people at companies, it's hard to get pro bono work because it's just not as available as it is in a law firm."

--As told to Britain Eakin. Editing by Emma Brauer.

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 2026 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 1,000 submissions.

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