



LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: CLASS ACTION

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES



Q&A **What are some of the department's most satisfying successes of the past year and why?**

Looking back over the past year, we are particularly proud that Weil has won significant, business-oriented resolutions across all of our primary litigation practices, underscoring our ability to work with clients to execute creative strategies no matter the nature of the dispute. We secured an en banc rehearing before the 11th Circuit for Farmers Insurance in an antitrust MDL and then convinced the full court to reverse the



Responses prepared by David Lender and Jonathan Polkes, co-chairs of the firm's litigation department.

panel and uphold a series of dismissals—this never happens.

We also demonstrated why Weil is best-in-class in securities litigation, through our successful defense of Signet Jewelers in a first-of-kind shareholder case regarding corporate codes of conduct, in which we convinced the Second Circuit





to grant a rare 23(f) petition challenging class certification that paved the way for a favorable settlement. And we resolved for Willis an investor MDL arising out of the Stanford Ponzi scheme by negotiating a complex settlement that implemented a bar on all claims, even those not before the court. All of these cases implicated billions of dollars.

Equally as satisfying are the new and ongoing cases on which we will get to partner with clients over the coming months and years, including cutting-edge antitrust class actions relating to so-called “no-poach” clauses in employment contracts, and major appeals that could further shape class arbitration jurisprudence, just to name a few.

A prospective client in crisis calls and asks why your team should be retained. What is your answer? Especially in crisis situations, we have proven expertise in developing and working toward business-oriented outcomes—whether at trial or via settlement—and helping clients work through the attendant PR and crisis management aspects that typically come with the territory. Part of what makes us so effective in these situations is taking a transactional perspective, which helps us advance our clients’ positions in an efficient manner; recognizing favorable outcomes and opportunities to exert leverage even as positions change.

In part, this comes from having the opportunity to work closely with extremely talented attorneys outside of our litigation department, such as M&A, business finance and restructuring, tax, and technology and IP transactions, on both litigation and transactional engagements.

LAW FIRM PROFILE

	\$1.52B GROSS REVENUE LAST YEAR	\$1.46B IN 2018
	#16 2020 AM LAW 200 RANKING	#16 IN 2019
	\$4.03M PROFIT PER EQUITY PARTNER	\$1.35M RPL
	1,126 ATTORNEYS	
168 EQUITY PARTNERS	92 NON EQUITY	807 ASSOCIATES

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm? We are very focused on talent retention and developing the next generation of top trial lawyers and department leaders, as well as, importantly, promoting and recruiting diverse candidates. We think as a firm we have a lot to be happy about on all of these fronts. Our submission featured numerous examples of up-and-coming and brand new partners taking lead roles in cases in courts around the country.

At the same time, we have prioritized the expansion of practices to complement this next generation of trial lawyers, including most notably in the appellate space, where we brought in Zack Tripp from the Solicitor General’s Office. Since then, we’ve already greatly enhanced our ability to service clients before the U.S. Supreme Court, including taking lead roles on a number of cert petitions and amicus briefs.

We are only just beginning to see the results of our investments in future planning.