

Law360 MVP Awards Go To Legal Top Guns From 58 Firms

By **Jake Simpson**

Law360, New York (November 08, 2013, 6:07 PM ET) -- Beginning this week, Law360 will profile the elite law firm partners whose exemplary work on critical litigation, mammoth deals and first-of-their-kind global matters earned them a spot on this year's list of MVP award winners.

A group of Law360 editors reviewed hundreds of submissions from the top law firms in the world, ultimately settling on 138 MVPs from 26 practice areas for their exceptional work in litigation or transactions between October 2012 and October 2013. This is Law360's third year honoring the top players in the legal industry.

The 2013 MVP class hails from 58 different law firms, led by Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP with 10 MVPs. Behind Weil is Kirkland & Ellis LLP with seven MVPs, and Jones Day and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP with six each. Kirkland has been a leader in the MVP awards for the last three years.

Three attorneys deserve special recognition for being three-time Law360 MVPs. They are WilmerHale LLP's William Lee in intellectual property, Cooley LLP's Michael Rhodes in privacy and consumer protection and Kirkland's Jay Lefkowitz in life sciences. An additional 18 attorneys on this year's MVP list are receiving the honor for a second time.

Accolades are due to all of this year's Law360 MVPs, who are:

Appellate

Lisa Blatt, Arnold & Porter
Rick Bress, Latham & Watkins
Miguel Estrada, Gibson Dunn
Noel Francisco, Jones Day
Neal Katyal, Hogan Lovells
Patricia Millett, Akin Gump
Joshua Rosenkranz, Orrick Herrington
Kathleen Sullivan, Quinn Emanuel

Banking

Daniel Dokos, Weil Gotshal
Maura O'Sullivan, Shearman & Sterling
Patrick Richard, Nossaman LLP
Philippe Selendy, Quinn Emanuel
Robert Azarow, Arnold & Porter

Bankruptcy

Andy Dietderich, Sullivan & Cromwell
Bruce Bennett, Jones Day
Gary Lee, Morrison & Foerster
Howard Seife, Chadbourne & Parke
Jay Goffman, Skadden
Stephen Karotkin, Weil Gotshal

Class Action

Marc Seltzer, Susman Godfrey
Miguel Estrada, Gibson Dunn
Salvatore Graziano, Bernstein Litowitz

Competition

Arthur Burke, Davis Polk
Christopher Curran, White & Case
J. Mark Gidley, White & Case
Mark Kovner, Kirkland & Ellis
Paul Denis, Dechert
Steven Newborn, Weil Gotshal

Employment

Bob Siegel, O'Melveny & Myers
Camille Olson, Seyfarth Shaw
Daniel Nash, Akin Gump
Eric Dreiband, Jones Day
Gerald Maatman, Seyfarth Shaw
Nancy Abell, Paul Hastings
Sam Shaulson, Morgan Lewis

Energy

David Cohen, Vinson & Elkins
G. Alan Rafte, Bracewell & Giuliani
Jeff Schlegel, Jones Day
John Goodgame, Akin Gump
Sean Wheeler, Latham & Watkins

Environmental

Lawrence Riff, Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Robert Thornton, Nossaman
Steven Solow, Katten Muchin

Government Contracts

Michael Mason, Hogan Lovells
Rick Conway, Dickstein Shapiro
Robert Nichols, Covington & Burling

Health Care

Eric Klein, Sheppard Mullin
Matt Gilroy, Weil Gotshal
Nicholas Pappas, Weil Gotshal
Stephanie Webster, Akin Gump

Hospitality

Gary Axelrod, Latham & Watkins
Jeff Horwitz, Proskauer Rose
Larry Eppley, Sheppard Mullin
Meghan Cocci, Dentons

Insurance

Jane Byrne, Quinn Emanuel
Jim Murray, Dickstein Shapiro
Michael Bidart, Shernoff Bidart
Robin Cohen, Kasowitz Benson
William Passannante, Anderson Kill

Intellectual Property

Annette Hurst, Orrick Herrington
William F. Lee, WilmerHale
Charlie Verhoeven, Quinn Emanuel
Chris Ottenweller, Orrick Herrington
David Pritikin, Sidley Austin
Douglas Lumish, Latham & Watkins
J. Steven Baughman, Ropes & Gray
John Mancini, Mayer Brown
Josh Krevitt, Gibson Dunn
Juanita Brooks, Fish & Richardson

International Trade

Ed Rubinoff, Akin Gump
John Reynolds, Davis Polk
Lourdes Catrain, Hogan Lovells
Mark Plotkin, Covington & Burling
Paul Brinkman, Quinn Emanuel

Life Sciences

David Doyle, Morrison & Foerster
Dimitrios Drivas, White & Case
Frank Aquila, Sullivan & Cromwell
Jay Lefkowitz, Kirkland & Ellis
Jonathan Singer, Fish & Richardson

Mergers & Acquisitions

Bill Curbow, Simpson Thacher
Carl Sanchez, Paul Hastings
Kenneth Siegel, Morrison & Foerster
Mark Gerstein, Latham & Watkins
Michael Aiello, Weil Gotshal
R. Scott Cohen, Jones Day
Robert Townsend, Morrison & Foerster
Sarkis Jebejian, Kirkland & Ellis
Sergio Galvis, Sullivan & Cromwell
Stephen Fraidin, Kirkland & Ellis

Media & Entertainment

Andrew Bart, Jenner & Block
David Yohai, Weil Gotshal
Marvin Putnam, O'Melveny & Myers
Peter Bicks, Orrick Herrington
Richard Stone, Jenner & Block
Robert Garrett, Arnold & Porter

Privacy & Consumer Protection

Douglas Meal, Ropes & Gray
Michael Rhodes, Cooley
Theodore Kobus, BakerHostetler

Private Equity

David Breach, Kirkland & Ellis
Gordon Caplan, Willkie Farr
Kevin Rinker, Debevoise & Plimpton
Michael Woronoff, Proskauer Rose
William Shields, Ropes & Gray

Product Liability

Eric Lasker, Hollingsworth LLP
Jeffrey Wagner, Kaye Scholer
Paul Cereghini, Bowman and Brooke
Stephanie Parker, Jones Day
Vincent Galvin, Bowman and Brooke

Project Finance

Adam Umanoff, Akin Gump
Agnieszka Klich, Chadbourne & Parke
Ben Shorten, Shearman & Sterling
Corey Boock, Nossaman
Nicholas Buckworth, Shearman & Sterling
Pascal Agboyibor, Orrick Herrington
Phillip Fletcher, Milbank Tweed

Real Estate

David Forti, Dechert
Jonathan Mechanic, Fried Frank
Mark Edelstein, Morrison & Foerster
Michael Bond, Weil Gotshal
Richard Giusto, Greenberg Traurig
Steve Horowitz, Cleary Gottlieb

Securities

Brian Pastuszewski, Goodwin Procter
Charles Duggan, Davis Polk
Lewis Liman, Cleary Gottlieb
Marc Kasowitz, Kasowitz Benson
Max Berger, Bernstein Litowitz
Robert Giuffra, Sullivan & Cromwell

Tax

Laurence Bambino, Shearman & Sterling
Mardiros Dakessian, Reed Smith
Rachel Cantor, Kirkland & Ellis
Scott Sontag, Weil Gotshal
Steven Clemens, Kirkland & Ellis

Technology

Alan Denenberg, Davis Polk
Keith Flaum, Weil Gotshal
Nancy Victory, Wiley Rein

White Collar

Abbe David Lowell, Chadbourne & Parke
Andrew Levander, Dechert
Marc Mukasey, Bracewell & Giuliani

--Editing by Rebecca Flanagan.