

## The Firms That Dominated In 2017

By **Michele Gorman**

*Law360, New York (January 15, 2018, 10:02 PM EST)* -- Law360's Firms of the Year rose above the competition with a combined 24 Practice Group of the Year awards after helping their clients win game-changing judgments and close record-breaking deals in 2017.

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP and Mayer Brown LLP came out on top among the 80 winners, nabbing spots as Firms of the Year for the second year in a row with victories in nine and eight practice areas, respectively. Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP followed closely behind, earning honors in seven practice areas to secure the third Firm of the Year title.

The firms have brought value to their clients and made their mark in the legal industry by realizing their strengths and drawing on multidisciplinary practice areas to generate a wide list of achievements.

Congratulations to the 2017 Firms of the Year.

### Mayer Brown



The U.S. Supreme Court's May decision in *Impression Products Inc. v. Lexmark International Inc.* marked a major win for Mayer Brown, which came in a case that could affect millions of companies and consumers in the secondary market for patented products.

Mayer Brown represented Impression Products, a West Virginia company that buys used ink cartridges made by manufacturer Lexmark and, after refurbishing them, sells them on the secondary market.

The practice of reselling the cartridges at a significantly lower price alarmed Lexmark, which sued Impression Products and other resellers for patent infringement arising from the purchase and resale of cartridges in the U.S. and abroad. Every defendant settled except Impression Products.

Applying the doctrine of patent exhaustion, which limits a patentee's exclusive right to make and sell a patented product, the Supreme Court held that a patentee could not impose patent-based restrictions on the use of a product after domestic and foreign sales. The justices threw out two Federal Circuit rules that kept some patent rights in place even after sales.

Paul Theiss, chairman of Mayer Brown, praised its appellate practice as a longtime "hallmark" of the firm. He said the win for Impression Products showed how its appellate group performs in some of the most important business cases that sit before the country's highest court each term.

"It's a great example of teamwork between our appellate practice and our superb intellectual property practice to bring about a great result for the client," Theiss said. "And not only the client, but the entire industry."

Mayer Brown won Practice Group of the Year awards in the Appellate, Banking, Class Action, Consumer Protection, Food & Beverage, Intellectual Property, Project Finance and Tax categories.

--Editing by Jeremy Barker.