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Law360's Weekly Verdict: Legal Lions & Lambs

By Aebra Coe

Law360 (May 7, 2020, 4:00 PM EDT) -- O'Melveny & Myers made it onto this week's legal lions list after client Amgen came out on top in a bench trial over its cancer drug Kyprolis, while Crowell & Moring ended up among the week's legal lambs after the Seventh Circuit threw out client Molson Coors' false ad lawsuit.

Legal Lions

Kicking off this week's legal lions list are O'Melveny & Myers LLP and Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell LLP. A Delaware federal judge has refused to declare a trio of patents tied to client Amgen Inc.'s injectable anti-cancer drug Kyprolis invalid, potentially staving off generic competition for the drug for another seven years. Amgen and Onyx Therapeutics are represented by Jack B. Blumenfeld, Karen Jacobs and Megan E. Dellinger of Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell LLP and Lisa Pensabene, Hassen Sayeed, Margaret O'Boyle, Carolyn Wall, Will Autz, Eberle Schultz, Lindsay Autz, James Li, Mark Hayden and Amanda Hoffman of O'Melveny & Myers LLP.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday **unanimously tossed** the convictions of two former New Jersey public officials in the infamous "Bridgegate" scandal to realign lanes to the George Washington Bridge as a form of political revenge, earning the defendants' lawyers at **Jones Day** and **Sidley Austin LLP** spots on the lions list. One-time gubernatorial aide Bridget Anne Kelly is represented by **Yaakov M. Roth** of **Jones Day**. Former Port Authority of New York and New Jersey executive William E. Baroni Jr. is represented by **Michael A. Levy** of **Sidley Austin LLP**.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP also secured a victory at the U.S. Supreme Court this week. The court on Monday **told the Fourth Circuit to reconsider** a ruling that the firm's client, a Kinder Morgan unit, can be sued for Clean Water Act violations, after the high court ruled the act sometimes covers pollution that first travels through groundwater. Kinder Morgan is represented by **Paul D. Clement, Erin E. Murphy, C. Harker Rhodes IV** and **Lauren N. Beebe** of **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**.

Next up on the legal lions list is **Mayer Brown LLP.** A Manhattan **federal judge on Monday granted** firm client 3M a preliminary injunction against a New Jersey outfit accused of violating federal trademark law and grossly inflating the price of N95 protective masks amid the COVID-19 pandemic. 3M is represented by **Carmine R. Zarlenga, A. John P. Mancini, Andrew J. Calica, Jordan Sagalowsky, Jonathan W. Thomas, Richard F. Bulger, Richard M. Assmus** and **Kristine M. Young** of **Mayer Brown LLP**.

In a big win for attorneys at Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman LLC, Verizon New Jersey Inc. has agreed to pay \$125 million to resolve claims by an attorney who was catastrophically injured after a rotted utility pole fell and hit her, in what her lawyers said Wednesday is the largest personal injury settlement awarded to an individual in the Garden State. The plaintiffs are represented by David A. Mazie, David Freeman, David Estes and Adam Epstein of Mazie Slater Katz & Freeman LLC.

Legal Lambs

Quarles & Brady LLP and Crowell & Moring LLP ended up on the legal lambs list May 1 when the Seventh Circuit cleared Anheuser-Busch of allegations that its advertisements highlighting Molson Coors' use of corn syrup violate false ad laws, saying Molson Coors "brought this problem on itself" by listing corn syrup in its ingredients. Molson Coors is represented by Donald Karl Schott, Anita Marie Boor and James Eric Goldschmidt of Quarles & Brady LLP and by Crowell & Moring LLP.

In a blow to attorneys at the Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom, Towards Justice and Public Justice, Smithfield Foods Inc. won dismissal Tuesday of a federal lawsuit accusing the meat processor of putting workers at a Missouri facility in harm's way during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plaintiffs are represented by Gina Chiala of the Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom, David Seligman and Juno Turner of Towards Justice and David S. Muraskin, Karla Gilbride and Stevie K. Glaberson of Public Justice.

Winston & Strawn LLP ended up on the lambs list May 1 when a California federal judge ruled that the firm's pay discrimination lawsuit on behalf of female players against the U.S. Soccer Federation can't go forward because the women actually made more than their male counterparts. The Women's National Soccer Team is represented by Jeffrey Kessler, David Feher, Cardelle Spangler, Diana Hughes Leiden, Lev Tsukerman and Jeanifer Parsigian of Winston & Strawn LLP.

The Federal Circuit said May 1 in a precedential opinion that the U.S. Court of Federal Claims rightfully determined **the government owes \$4.4 million** in attorney fees on top of a \$200,000 judgment for infringing a since-deceased inventor's patent for a metal treatment technology, landing DOJ attorneys on the list. The United States is represented by **Gary L. Hausken** and **Joseph H. Hunt** of the **DOJ's civil division**.

Last up on the legal lambs list this week are **K&L Gates LLP** and **Miles & Stockbridge PC**. The **federal government is not responsible** for cleanup costs at the New Jersey site of a former chromium chemicals facility where it exerted influence during both world wars, as it didn't control pollution-related activities there, the Third Circuit ruled Monday, declining to revive a suit from PPG Industries Inc. PPG is represented by **Joseph F. Lagrotteria** and **Adam G. Husik** of **K&L Gates LLP** and **Joseph M. Rainsbury** of **Miles & Stockbridge PC**.

--Additional reporting by Bill Wichert, Britain Eakin, Mike LaSusa, Dorothy Atkins, Nadia Dreid, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Frank Runyeon and Jeannie O'Sullivan. Editing by Kelly Duncan.

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