LAW360

Portfolio Media. Inc. | 230 Park Avenue, 7th Floor | New York, NY 10169 | www.law360.com
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

# MVP: Mayer Brown's Sydney Mintzer




*Law360 (November 9, 2026, 4:00 PM EST)* -- Mayer Brown LLP's Sydney Mintzer successfully defended major U.S. manufacturing interests before the International Trade Commission over the past year, earning him a spot among the 2026 Law360 International Trade MVPs.

**His biggest accomplishment over the past year:**

Mintzer represented Panasonic Corp., the largest U.S. manufacturer of lithium-ion battery cells, in a dispute over whether imported Chinese active anode material used in battery production should be subject to countervailing and antidumping duties.

The petition was raised by a coalition of domestic producers at the U.S. International Trade Commission, arguing the imports prevented the establishment of a domestic industry to produce the material.

Mintzer explained the arguments put forth by the domestic industry were uncommon.

"The vast majority of petitions are filed when a U.S. industry claims that they've already been injured; this case was brought under a rarely used theory that an industry in the United States was unable to develop because of imports, and that those imports were retarding its ability to develop that industry," Mintzer said. "The facts of this case were such that had petitioner won, it would have opened up the floodgates to these types of cases … You wouldn't need a very challenging set of facts in order to proceed on that theory."

Mintzer led Panasonic's ITC defense, showing that the domestic industry had not demonstrated commercial-scale active anode material production and that Panasonic had worked with the industry to improve its production process.

"Their inability to qualify their products had nothing to do with the fact that imports were actually in the market, and so by winning that, I think the ramifications were much more broad than just the confines of that case," Mintzer said.

In April, the ITC determined the subsidized Chinese anodes sold in the U.S. at unfair prices weren't

harming domestic industry.

Mintzer said the commission "recognized that if a petitioner wins in this situation, it's really going to be a change in [antidumping and countervailing duty] law."

The ITC's determination that the active anode material from China didn't prevent the establishment of domestic industry meant the up to 102.7% antidumping duty rate and the up to 66.86% countervailing duty rate determined by the U.S. International Trade Administration on the products wouldn't be issued.

The investigations into the imported anodes were spurred by a group of companies under the banner of the American Active Anode Material Producers, which included Anovion Technologies and Syrah Technologies LLC.

The duty investigations also targeted specific companies, with some — including subsidiaries of Tesla and Panasonic — having faced slightly lower duty rates.

While the ITC's determination was challenged by the domestic producers in a suit filed in the U.S. Court of International Trade, the domestic producers more recently submitted a letter to the ITC requesting it reconsider its determination.

"One of the reasons I believe they're doing that is because they see the opportunity now with a brand-new commission, and I think they want another bite at the apple," Mintzer said.

The U.S. Senate confirmed five new commissioners over the summer, giving the ITC a full slate for the first time in recent years.

Mintzer said that Panasonic, along with the other major companies involved in the matter, including Tesla and LG, have submitted letters to the ITC advising against the voluntary remand and reconsideration of the case, arguing the commission has no legal basis to do so.

Mintzer warned that if the ITC were to grant the request, there could be a significant change in procedures associated with these investigations.

"It'll essentially allow these investigations to never end; if you can go back and the commission is willing to reconsider, that will not make investigations final," Mintzer said.

**Other notable cases he has worked on:**

Mintzer said his work this past year for Arkema Inc., the largest U.S. producer of curable resins, is another example of an issue that may have broader implications than just the case at issue.

Mintzer led efforts to submit petitions with the ITC and the U.S. Department of Commerce, seeking antidumping duties on Korean imported resins, and both antidumping and countervailing duties on Taiwanese imports.

"We brought a countervailing duty petition targeting Taiwan, and that alleged both Taiwanese subsidies, like Taiwanese government subsidies, but also subsidies that those Taiwanese entities benefited from through their affiliates in China, on largely around sourcing raw materials," Mintzer said.

Mintzer said the matter was an early example of a recently enacted ability for U.S. producers to contest

so-called transnational subsidies. In the case, Mintzer said that part of their arguments were that the imported goods from Taiwan were benefiting from subsidies that the exporters' Chinese affiliates received.

"It wasn't the very first, but it was one of the first cases really involving transnational subsidies, and so Congress was still really establishing the parameters by which it would allow that. And so it was an important case in setting down markers for how future cases should be addressed," Mintzer said.

As a result of Mintzer's work, both Commerce and the ITC reached affirmative conclusions, and the duties were ordered in March, with combined rates of 233.66% for Taiwanese goods and antidumping duty rates ranging from 65.72% to 155.42% for imported Korean merchandise.

**Why he is an international trade attorney:**

Mintzer said he knew early on he did not want to be a practicing lawyer in the traditional sense, and was interested in political science and international trade while conducting undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

"I knew I didn't want to be a lawyer like you'd see on TV, so to speak, and I had a really singular focus of interest," Mintzer said.

Though he was accepted and enrolled in University of California, Los Angeles' doctorate program for political science, those plans quickly shifted for personal reasons, and Mintzer ended up enrolled in law school at New York University.

Once interviewing for jobs, Mintzer said it became apparent that he would need to be in Washington to practice international trade law.

"It's really the only place you can be a trade lawyer, and so that got baked in," Mintzer said.

**His advice for junior attorneys:**

Mintzer said young attorneys looking to practice international trade law will benefit from an initial interest in the associated politics, policy and economic factors that play a significant role in the space.

"If you don't come into this practice being interested in policy and politics, then you're incredibly behind because it's infused with it," Mintzer said.

In his experience, Mintzer said, it can be easy to recognize younger attorneys who are truly invested and interested in international trade law.

"It's very easy to tell the difference between someone who may have a passing interest but doesn't really know much about the discipline, versus someone who's really investigated the field," Mintzer said. "I would encourage any law student who's really interested in trade to make sure that they have demonstrated that on their resume."

Mintzer said those kinds of experiences include internships on Capitol Hill, working with committees such as the House Ways and Means Committee or Senate Finance Committee, which have jurisdiction over trade legislation. Young lawyers interested in international trade may also seek internships at trade associations or the World Trade Organization, he added.

"This field is very different from the traditional areas of law, and it's hard enough to become a lawyer where you know law school at least provides a modicum of training," Mintzer said.

*--As told to Dylan Moroses. Editing by Patrick Reagan.*

*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.*

---

All Content © 2003-2026, Portfolio Media, Inc.