

The Firms That Dominated In 2016

By **Melissa Maleske**

Law360, New York (January 9, 2017, 9:49 PM EST) -- Law360's Firms of the Year rose above the competition in 2016 by earning a combined 20 Practice Group of the Year awards on the strength of work that helped their clients attain game-changing judgments and close record deals.

This year the honor goes to Mayer Brown LLP, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP and King & Spalding LLP, which unseated last year's Firms of the Year by winning the most Practice Group of the Year awards out of a total of 80 winning law firms. Mayer Brown and Skadden each racked up seven wins, while King & Spalding accrued six.

With a combined 66 offices, the firms are global powerhouses that strive to deliver excellence and consistency in client service. They know their strengths, focus on constant improvement and don't shy away from high-stakes work, which in 2016 yielded some impressive achievements on behalf of their clients.

Congratulations to this year's Firms of the Year.

Mayer Brown

Among court rulings that made an impact on corporate litigants last year, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Spokeo Inc. v. Thomas Robins et al.* rises to the top of the heap. The high court's 6-2 holding that plaintiffs in a suit alleging Fair Credit Reporting Act violations lack standing without establishing concrete injury rapidly became a potent defensive tool in cases brought under a bevy of federal and state statutes.

Representing Spokeo in the Supreme Court victory that created untold ripples for the corporate defense bar was Mayer Brown. The firm also quickly applied Spokeo principles to help its own clients in diverse

industries. The application of victories across practice groups is a strength of the firm that requires close collaboration among the firm's lawyers, practices and offices, said firm chairman Paul Theiss. It's all

Firm of the Year

MAYER BROWN

- » Appellate
- » Banking
- » Class Action
- » Food & Beverage
- » Life Sciences
- » Technology
- » Transportation

made possible, he said, by starting and ending with the client.

"Our clients' needs and challenges are changing faster than they ever have before, and that requires us to change with them and to recognize that the challenges they face today really look nothing like the challenges they faced even five years ago," Theiss said. "We think being able to change with our clients is the major factor that led to this recognition."

Mayer Brown was four for four at the Supreme Court in the 2015-2016 term, Theiss said, with each of the wins argued by different partners of the firm.

Mayer Brown won Practice Group of the Year awards in the Appellate, Banking, Class Action, Food & Beverage, Life Sciences, Technology and Transportation categories. Theiss said the wins demonstrate the way Mayer Brown's capabilities continue to evolve and grow based on the needs of clients.

"For decades, people have recognized Mayer Brown as a firm, for example, that has very strong appellate ties and market-leading practices serving the banking industry," Theiss said. "But a few years ago, I don't think anyone would have thought of Mayer Brown as a technology firm or a life sciences firm or a food and beverage firm."

--Editing by Mark Lebetkin and Catherine Sum.