

Drumroll Please: A Recap of the 2025 Litigators of the Week

By Ross Todd

December 31, 2025

Another year and another 50-plus Litigators of the Week are in the books. This year, lawyers from nearly 60 law firms and legal nonprofits landed top honors in our weekly search for significant, groundbreaking and newsworthy litigation wins.

This year, however, we saw an above-average number of repeat players spending multiple weeks in the winners' circle. A dozen firms logged wins in two weeks this year, including **Berger Montague**; **Boies Schiller Flexner**; **Cooley**; **Covington & Burling**; **Davis Polk & Wardwell**; **Jenner & Block**; **Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick**; **King & Spalding**; **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison**; **Sullivan & Cromwell**; **Susman Godfrey**; and **White & Case**.

Three firms took home top honors three times: **Kirkland & Ellis**; **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom**; and **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr**.

Two firms tied for the second most wins: **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher** and **Latham & Watkins** both spent four weeks at the top.

But this year, as was the case in two of the past three years, it was the litigators at **Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan** who took home



The American Lawyer Awards Trophies.

Credit: PWP Studio for ALM

bragging rights most often. They stayed a nose ahead of the runners-up by taking home wins in five weeks in 2025.

Without further ado, here's one last run through the 2025 Litigators of the Week. See you back here in 2026.

Defending Against a \$290M Claim and Scoring a \$116M Win in Drug Patent Fight

Mike Morin and **David Frazier** of **Latham & Watkins** and **William (Bill) Raich** of **Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner** led a trial team that helped Sarepta Therapeutics emerge victorious as the counter-claimant in patent litigation against Nippon Shinyaku concerning

treatment for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a degenerative muscular disorder.

[A Knockout Blow to Latest FCC Net Neutrality Rules After 'Loper Bright'](#)

Jeffrey Wall and **Morgan Ratner** of Sullivan & Cromwell took the lead for petitioners challenging the Biden administration's key tech policy at the Sixth Circuit.

[Shortly After Name Partner Kathleen Sullivan's Retirement, Quinn Emanuel Scores Appellate Win for Vimeo](#)

In a case that ran for a decade and a half of the 20-year run **Kathleen Sullivan** spent at the firm that bears her name, the Second Circuit found that video-sharing website Vimeo was entitled to safe harbor under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act from claims brought by music rightsholders—handing a win to Sullivan and partners **Todd Anten** and **Owen Roberts**.

[A Directed Verdict Win for Cisco in a West Texas Patent Case](#)

Gibson's **Brian Rosenthal**, **Stuart Rosenberg** and **Audrey Yang** helped Cisco secure a rare directed verdict in a patent infringement trial with \$120 million in damages on the line.

[A \\$630M Antitrust Settlement for Automotive Software Vendors—\\$140M More Than Alleged Overcharges](#)

More than eight years ago, **Michael Nemelka** of Kellogg, Hansen got a call from an automotive software company alleging CDK Global conspired with its main rival to eliminate competition. On the eve of trial in January, Nemelka and partners **Derek Ho** and **Dan Dorris** helped a class of vendors reach a \$630 million settlement with CDK.

[US Soccer and MLS Fend Off Claims They Conspired to Scuttle Rival League's Prospect](#)

Federal jurors in Brooklyn found the North American Soccer League hadn't proven its

conspiracy case, handing a win to the United States Soccer Federation, represented by Latham's **Christopher Yates** and **Larry Buterman**, and Major League Soccer, represented by **Bradley Ruskin** and **Kevin Perra** of Proskauer Rose.

[Thomson Reuters Wins Key Fair Use Fight With AI Start-Up](#)

In an early test case for copyright holders bringing claims related to content used to train artificial intelligence, a Kirkland & Ellis team led by **Dale Cendali**, **Joshua Simmons** and **Miranda Means** secured a summary judgment ruling finding ROSS Intelligence infringed on 2,243 Westlaw headnotes.

[In 4-Month Bribery Trial of Former Illinois House Speaker, No Conviction for Lobbyist Codefendant](#)

Patrick Cotter of UB Greensfelder and **John Mitchell** of Willkie Farr & Gallagher represented Mike McClain, who faced criminal bribery charges alongside former Speaker Michael Madigan. Although Chicago federal jurors found Madigan guilty on 10 of 23 counts, they deadlocked on all six counts against McClain, with the vast majority voting to acquit.

[In Class Action Trial Over PediaSure Label Claims, a Complete Defense Verdict for Abbott](#)

Gregg LoCascio, **Michael Glick**, **Tracie Bryant** and their team at Kirkland & Ellis secured a defense verdict in California state court for Abbott Laboratories, which had been accused of misleading consumers about health and nutrition claims on PediaSure labels because of the amount of added sugar in the products.

[A Defense Win for SuperValu and Albertsons In False Claims Act Trial After SCOTUS Weighs in on Scienter](#)

The companies brought on a trial team led by **Enu Mainigi**, **Josh Podoll** and **Jennifer Wicht**

of **Williams & Connolly** to handle claims they fraudulently overcharged government programs for prescription drugs. After three and a half weeks of trial and just two hours of deliberations, federal jurors in Springfield, Illinois, returned a defense verdict.

Summary Judgment Win For COVID Test Maker in Securities Fraud Suit Targeting Accuracy Claims

After the case survived a motion to dismiss, Co-Diagnostics brought on **Doug Greene, Genevieve York-Erwin** and their team at **Baker & Hostetler**. They convinced a federal judge in Utah last week that the plaintiffs couldn't show company statements led to their losses.

The Developer of the Dakota Access Pipeline Hits Greenpeace With a \$667M Trial Verdict

After a three-week trial, state court jurors in North Dakota found that Greenpeace incited violence by protestors and defamed the pipeline's developer, Energy Transfer, which was represented at trial by **Trey Cox, Collin Cox** and **Gregg Costa** of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

In Bet-the-Company Delaware Merger Trial, a Win for Desktop Metal

Nano Dimension agreed to buy Desktop Metal last year before a shake-up in Nano's board. In March, Delaware Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick found Nano didn't live up to its "hell-or-high-water" commitment to seek certain regulatory approval of the deal, handing a win to Desktop and its lawyers at Quinn Emanuel, led by **Bill Burck, Christopher Kercher** and **Peter Fountain**.

Hitting J&J's Janssen Unit With a Record \$1.64B Judgment in False Claims Act Case

After a six-week trial in 2024, relators' counsel **Pete Marketos** of **Reese Marketos** and **Sherrie Savett** of Berger Montague secured treble

damages of \$360 million on federal False Claims Act claims against Janssen related to off-label marketing of the HIV drugs Prezista and Intelence and \$1.276 billion in civil penalties.

A \$28M Verdict for Exonerated Member of 'Buffalo Five'

A federal jury awarded \$28 million to John Walker Jr., who spent 22 years in prison before being exonerated of a 1976 murder. He was represented at trial against Erie County by a team including Wilmer's **Ryanne Perio, Joel Rudin** from **The Law Offices of Joel B. Rudin P.C.** and **Spencer Durland** of **Hoover & Durland**.

After 40 Years in Prison, an Overturned Murder Conviction

Lawyers at the **New England Innocence Project**, Quinn Emanuel and Skadden teamed to win a trial motion for client Edward Wright based on newly discovered evidence

A Defense Win for the New York Times in the Re-Trial of Sarah Palin's Libel Case

Wilmer's **Felicia Ellsworth** and **David Axelrod** of **Ballard Spahr** won a defense verdict for The New York Times Co. and James Bennet, the former head of the Times editorial board, on a libel claim stemming from a 2017 editorial about gun violence in the U.S.

A Landmark \$4 Billion Settlement For Child Sex Abuse Victims from L.A. County

County Supervisors agreed to fund the settlement with more than 7,000 survivors of systemic sexual abuse at juvenile detention facilities and a county-run home for foster youth—clients represented by a team that included lawyers **ACTS LAW, Becker Law Group, Boucher LLP, Herman Law, McNicholas & McNicholas** and **Slater Slater Schulman**.

Spyware-Maker NSO Group Hit With \$168M Verdict for Hacking WhatsApp

A trial team led by **Greg Andres**, **Antonio Perez-Marques** and **Micah Block** of Davis Polk & Wardwell convinced jurors that NSO Group, the Israeli company behind Pegasus spyware, “engaged in malice, oppression or fraud” in violation of California’s anti-hacking law, opening the door to a massive punitive damage award.

[Judge Tosses CFTC’s My Forex Funds Case After Agency’s ‘Obfuscation and Avoidance’](#)

A special master found the agency “acted willfully and in bad faith on several occasions” in not coming clean about \$31.5 million in Canadian funds the CFTC initially said were transferred to the founder, which actually were used to pay Canadian corporate taxes. Quinn’s **Rob Zink** and **Avi Perry** and **Craig Carpenito** of King & Spalding led the defense.

[A \\$406.8M Win for Regeneron in Antitrust Trial Showdown With Cholesterol Drug Rival Amgen](#)

Federal jurors in Delaware found that Amgen violated antitrust laws by bundling its cholesterol treatment with substantial rebates on a pair of blockbuster anti-inflammatory drugs to squeeze a rival drug from Regeneron out of the market. **Jonathan Polkes** of White & Case led Regeneron’s trial team with **Eric Hochstadt** of **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe** and **Jessica Falk** of **Weil, Gotshal & Manges**.

[A Pair of Wins for Law Firms in Fights Against Trump Executive Orders](#)

With **Michael Attanasio** of Cooley representing Jenner & Block and **Paul Clement** of **Clement & Murphy** representing WilmerHale, both firms secured summary judgment barring the implementation of executive orders targeting them, their employees and their clients.

[Knocking Out Class Certification for a Second Time in the Marriott Data Breach MDL](#)

This week’s Fourth Circuit reversal marked the second time the court has weighed in on class certification in the case of the breach affecting 134 million hotel guests. Jenner’s **Matthew Hellman** and **Lindsay Harrison** represent Marriott International Inc. and Kirkland’s **Devin Anderson** and **Craig Primis** represent Accenture, the IT service provider that managed the hacked database at issue.

[A Defense Win for Google in \\$1.3B Ad Tech Trial](#)

ReactX accused Google of using its confidential technology to build two of the internet’s most successful digital advertising products. After more than a month of trial in Los Angeles Superior Court, jurors sided with **Colleen Bal**, **John Flynn** and their team at **Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati** and awarded ReactX nothing.

[Nixing More Than a Half-Billion Dollars in Patent Verdicts in One Week](#)

Wilmer’s **Mark Fleming** secured Federal Circuit rulings knocking out the patents behind almost \$223 million in infringement verdicts against client PNC Bank just days before the court reversed a \$300 million infringement and damages verdict against another client, Apple

[Meta Scores Key Fair Use Win in Early AI Copyright Case](#)

A federal judge in San Francisco held that Meta’s use of copyright works by a group of 13 prominent authors to train its Llama AI models was “highly transformative” and the authors hadn’t proven harm to the market for their works—handing a win to **Kannon Shanmugam** of Paul Weiss, **Bobby Ghajar** of Cooley and **Angela Dunning** of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton.

[Hitting Google With a \\$314M Verdict For Using Android Customers’ Data Without Permission](#)

Glen Summers and **Karma Julianelli** of Bartlit Beck led a trial team that represented

a certified class of California residents who claim Google designed Android in a way that collects information about users and harnesses cellular data to send that information back to the company, without users' knowledge or consent.

Putting the Kibosh on the FTC's 'Click to Cancel' Rule

A Gibson Dunn team led by partners **Helgi Walker** and **Lucas Townsend** and associate **Michael Corcoran** convinced a unanimous Eighth Circuit panel to vacate the FTC's rule aimed at recurring subscriptions just days before it was to take effect.

Getting 23andMe's Bankruptcy Sale Past the Finish Line

After a couple of months of non-stop litigation, counsel for the debtor at Paul Weiss and for the acquirer—a newly formed nonprofit led by the genetic testing company's co-founder, Anne Wojcicki, represented by Skadden—last week shut down a last-ditch bid by the state of California to block the deal.

Clearing the Path for a Potential Generic Launch of a Blockbuster Heart Failure Drug

The Third Circuit and Federal Circuit in July turned back Novartis's requests for injunctions to block a version of its heart failure medication Entresto from generic maker MSN Laboratories—represented by **Gianni Servodidio** and **Rémi Jaffré** of Jenner & Block and **Ron Daignault** of Daignault Iyer.

A Trial Win for CME Group in Class Action Brought by Pit Traders

Chicago jurors rejected claims that the exchange operator—represented by a team at Skadden led by **Albert Hogan**, **Marcella Lape** and **Manuel Cachán**—inappropriately cut traders out of profits associated with the shift toward electronic trading.

Miami Jury Hits Tesla With \$243M Verdict in Autopilot Crash Case

Federal jurors found Tesla 33% responsible for the 2019 crash that killed a 22-year-old woman and severely injured her boyfriend. **Brett Schreiber** of **Singleton Schreiber, Todd Poses** of **Poses Law Group** and **Adam Boumel** of **Rousso Boumel Law Firm** led the trial team for the plaintiffs.

6th Circuit Weighs In on Privilege Covering Law Firm Internal Investigations

Bob Giuffra, **David Rein** and **Nicholas Menillo** of **Sullivan & Cromwell** convinced the Sixth Circuit to pump the brakes on a ruling that would have forced their client, FirstEnergy Corp., to hand over documents from internal investigations by law firms **Jones Day** and **Squire Patton Boggs**.

With DOJ Backing, a Hard-Fought Win for Muslims on Long Island

Linklaters partners **Muhammad Faridi** and **Diana Conner** and associate **Peter Vogel** helped a Long Island Muslim congregation win long-sought approval of a mosque construction project and a \$3.95 million settlement from the Town of Oyster Bay.

Continuing a String of Class Certification Wins on Appeal for Progressive

After wins last month at the Seventh and Third Circuits reversing class certification in cases accusing Progressive of systematically underpaying for the value of totaled vehicles, **Jeff Cashdan**, **Zach McEntyre**, **Amy Upshaw** and their team at King & Spalding secured another appellate win for the insurer this week at the Fourth Circuit.

\$62M Verdict For the City of Baltimore In Public Nuisance Suit Against Ghost Gun Kit Seller

A trial team led by **Saba Bireda** of **Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight**, **James Hannaway** of Berger Montague and **Phil Bangle** of the **Brady**

Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence convinced jurors in Baltimore that Hanover Armory, a gun dealer on the outskirts of the city, was negligent in its sale of ghost gun kits and substantially contributed to the public nuisance of gun violence.

[Google Hit With a \\$425.7 Million Verdict in Landmark Data Privacy Class Action Trial](#)

A team led by **David Boies** at Boies Schiller, **Bill Carmody** at Susman Godfrey and **John Yanchunis** at **Morgan & Morgan** represented plaintiffs who claimed Google collected data from third-party apps despite affirmative steps users took to opt out of the company's data collection.

[Truce With Generic Makers Over Rinvoq Sends AbbVie Share Price to New High](#)

Erica Andersen and **Christopher Sipes**, co-chairs of Covington's patent litigation group, and co-counsel David Frazier, the global vice chair of Latham's intellectual property litigation practice, represented AbbVie as it secured the last of five settlements with generic makers that are set to protect its blockbuster immunology drug until 2037.

[In Decade-Old IP Suit, Microsoft Deletes WordPerfect Maker's Last Patent Standing and \\$4.6B Damages Claim](#)

White & Case partners **Jonathan Lamberson** and **Henry Huang** and associate **Hallie Kiernan** represented Microsoft as the company secured a summary judgment ruling invalidating the last remaining patent WordPerfect maker Corel asserted in a lawsuit initially filed in 2015.

[A Landmark \\$1.5B Settlement for Authors in Copyright Suit Against AI Company Anthropic](#)

The settlement works out to about \$3,000 per work that Anthropic downloaded from certain pirated libraries for copyright holders

represented by co-lead counsel **Justin Nelson** of Susman Godfrey and **Rachel Geman** of **Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein**, with Susman's **Rohit Nath** leading the plaintiffs' summary judgment arguments.

[After Taking On Arizona Developer's Broken Deal Suit About a Year Before Trial, a \\$296M Verdict](#)

Maricopa County Superior Court jurors awarded \$296,448,624 to two entities run by developer Bruce Gray—the total amount being sought by a Gibson Dunn trial team led by partners Collin Cox and **Sydney Scott** and associate **Ben Betner**.

[After Judge Orders New Trial In \\$32M Plaintiffs' Win, an Even Bigger Verdict on Second Go](#)

A Boies Schiller team led by **Matthew Schwartz** and **John Zach** won a \$32 million verdict last year for the City of Almaty, Kazakhstan and BTA Bank against defendants accused of taking part in a scheme to launder stolen funds into the U.S. After U.S. District Judge John Koeltl ordered a second trial based on a faulty jury instruction, federal jurors in Manhattan awarded \$52 million.

[NJ Jurors Award Founders of Automotive Ecommerce Site \\$63M in Business Fraud Case](#)

New Jersey state court jurors awarded \$56 million to the two founders of automotive ecommerce business CARiD.com, \$2 million more than the highest damages number put forward by their counsel, **Ellison "Nelly" Ward Merkel**, **Nicholas Hoy** and **Evan Hess** of Quinn Emanuel. Jurors tacked on an added \$7 million in punitives.

[After Jury Selection in Science Fraud Case Against Former CUNY Professor, Prosecutors Drop All Charges](#)

A **Dykema Gossett** team led by **Jennifer Beidel** represented Dr. Hoau-Yan Wang, a former medical professor and research scientist at the

City University of New York who faced claims of defrauding the NIH of about \$16 million in grants related to early studies of a potential Alzheimer's treatment.

[Reviving a \\$185 Million Verdict Against Monsanto Over PCB Exposure in Washington](#)

After a choice of law analysis, the Washington Supreme Court reinstated a verdict won on behalf of three teachers at a school near Seattle, finding that Missouri law's lack of a statute of repose and availability of punitive damages applied. The teachers were represented by **Deepak Gupta** of **Gupta Wessler** and **Rick Friedman** of **Friedman Rubin**,

[A Complete Defense Verdict for Novo Nordisk in False Claims Act Suit](#)

In a case accusing Novo Nordisk of paying kickbacks to doctors and patients to boost sales of its hemophilia drug, federal jurors in Tacoma, Washington sided with the company and its legal team, led by **Jaime Jones** and **Jennifer Saulino** of **Sidley Austin**.

[Meta Fends Off FTC's Social Media Monopoly Case at Trial](#)

U.S. District Chief Judge James Boasberg found the agency didn't prove its claims that Meta's acquisitions of Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014 allowed the company to hold an illegal monopoly in the market for personal social-networking—a landmark win for a joint team at Kellogg Hansen and Davis Polk.

[The SEC Walks Away From Its Case Against SolarWinds, Top Cybersecurity Officer](#)

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission agreed to dismiss claims that the software

company concealed cyber vulnerabilities in the lead-up to the high-profile 2020 Sunburst attack. A Latham team led by **Sean Berkowitz** and **Serrin Turner** secured a ruling from a federal judge in Manhattan last year, gutting the SEC's case.

[Securing Release for Jimmie 'Chris' Duncan After 27 Years on Louisiana's Death Row](#)

A team led by **Scott Greene** of **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**, **Chris Fabricant** of **The Innocence Project** and **Naila Campbell** of **Mwalimu Center for Justice** secured a ruling vacating Duncan's conviction for the murder of his girlfriend's 23-month-old daughter. They secured his release on bail on the eve of Thanksgiving.

[An Associate Takes the Lead in Knocking Out a Key Expert in Baby Food Heavy Metal Test Case](#)

In coordinated proceedings in California state court considering claims that heavy metals in baby food cause autism and ADHD, Covington & Burling senior associate **Nicole Antoine** helped convince a judge to exclude the plaintiff's exposure expert and grant summary judgment to her client Hain Celestial Group and its codefendants.

[After NASCAR Teams Put on Their Antitrust Case at Trial, Settlement Is Poised to Transform the Sport](#)

A **Winston & Strawn** team led by **Jeffrey Kessler**, **Jeanifer Parsigian** and **Danielle Williams** represented NASCAR teams Front Row Motorsports Inc. and 23X1 Racing LLC—the team co-owned by Michael Jordan and driver Denny Hamlin. Nine days into trial, the morning after the plaintiffs rested their case, the parties announced a settlement that included "evergreen" provisions for team charters.