

WASHINGTON LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR

A SPECIAL REPORT

In this special report, The National Law Journal takes the measure of litigation departments in our nation's capital. We asked top practices to tell us about their shops—head counts and revenues, and biggest wins and losses. Our staff scrutinized the data and selected the nine firms you'll read about in these pages. Williams & Connolly is the top honoree, but it was a close call, and we selected two runners-up: Boies, Schiller & Flexner and Covington & Burling. We also recognize firms with distinguished practices in intellectual property, general civil litigation, white-collar defense, insurance, products liability and labor and employment. —BETH FRERKING, EDITOR IN CHIEF

BOIES, SCHILLER & FLEXNER

WASHINGTON LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: FINALIST

Boies, Schiller & Flexner's ambitions to be one of Washington's power players paid off big in 2014 with high-profile hires and significant wins for the firm's litigation department.

For one such win, the firm's veteran antitrust partner, William Isaacson, linked up with one such hire, Karen Dunn, who joined the firm last February from the White House after a career in government. In December, Isaacson and Dunn successfully defended Apple Inc. against a decade-long antitrust class action alleging that the company sought to monopolize the digital music market in an iTunes software update.

Together they represent Boies Schiller's litigation pedigree and its infusion over the past year with former government lawyers who cut their teeth in the corridors of the nation's capital.

"We started off as a group of litigators who lived in D.C. and I think we're much more of a Washington office now," said Isaacson, who has been in the Washington office since it opened in 1997.

The firm's Washington office houses nearly 50 of the firm's 282 lawyers. Other recent additions include Stacey Grigsby from the U.S. Justice Department, Lisa



KAREN DUNN

Barclay from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and a trio of Federal Trade Commission alums in Rich Feinstein, Chris Renner and Nick Widnell.

"There's incredible talent top to bottom at the firm," Dunn said. "It's bigger than it was when it started, but it has a small-firm collegiality, which I like. I've worked on cases where every member of the team, whatever their job is, is operating at the very highest level."

In August, Isaacson, working with

associate Martha Goodman, won an injunction from a California federal court against National Collegiate Athletic Association rules prohibiting college athletes from making money off their own names and likenesses in video games and television broadcasts.

Companies turn to Boies Schiller when their cases hit crunch time. In November, D.C. partner Hamish Hume took over Space Exploration Technologies Corp.'s Court of Federal Claims suit to allow the company, known as SpaceX, the ability to compete for government contracts to launch military satellites. By May 2015, the firm secured a settlement with the Air Force that included SpaceX entering a marketplace that had previously been the exclusive province of a Boeing-Lockheed Martin joint venture.

Partner Michael Gottlieb in August scored a turnaround for his client, Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government, against the Iraqi Ministry of Oil, which went to a federal court in Texas to claim for itself a KRG ship containing a million barrels of oil. The Boies Schiller team convinced the court to reverse course on an earlier finding against the KRG and dismiss all but a Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act claim. —Mike Sacks

FIRM FACTS

Name of firm: Boies, Schiller & Flexner
Based: Armonk, New York
Total number of attorneys: 282
Litigation partners firmwide: 103
Litigation associates firmwide: 131
D.C. litigation partners: 22
D.C. litigation associates: 19

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- ▶ The BSF environment. The firm from its inception has focused on preparing cases for trial from the first day of the case.
- ▶ Talented, smart and hardworking colleagues.
- ▶ Experience. In this century, eight federal antitrust class actions have gone to trial and judgment and I have had the opportunity to try five of those cases, so far winning verdicts in each case, whether plaintiff or defense.

—WILLIAM ISAACSON, PARTNER