

New York Law Journal

LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR WINNER (GENERAL LITIGATION): BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER



Read a Q&A with Chairman Matthew L. Schwartz below.

What are some of the department's most satisfying successes of the past year and why?

At Boies Schiller, we are trial lawyers first and foremost, so we love opportunities to be in court. One of our biggest wins was the jury verdict we achieved against Google on behalf of a consumer class. Founding Partner David Boies led the three-firm trial team, along with partners Mark Mao and James Lee, that won nearly a half a billion dollars in invasion of privacy claims. I had several trials last year myself, one of which hinged on whether a text message could be a contract and another for a longtime client that has been defrauded of billions of dollars and is trying to find and recover those funds. Helping a client like that who has been victimized is always satisfying.

Our trial calendar over the past year was incredibly busy, throughout the firm, not just in New York. If you walk the halls of any of our offices, you're likely to find at least one conference room that has been taken over by a trial team getting ready to go to court. That's fundamentally who we are as a firm, and we all take great pride in it.

What traits do you respect most in opposing firms and lawyers?

Anyone who has talked to me about this topic before will know my answer. We work in an incredibly adversarial environment, but that doesn't mean we have to behave as though opposing counsel is the enemy. This job is fun and interesting, but it's also challenging. Sometimes emotions run hot. In the kind of

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work that we do, it's a given that opposing counsel is going to be smart, experienced, well-resourced, and competitive. I respect all of those traits, but I have the utmost respect for my adversaries who zealously, even aggressively, advocate for their clients, but who do it without being uncivil. We try to hold ourselves to that standard, and we train our junior lawyers to do the same.

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm?

At our annual firm meeting last December, I asked every attorney in the room to raise their hand if they participated in a trial in 2025,

and the vast majority of hands went up. That includes associates, and we don't just send them to court to take notes or advance slides. They question witnesses, make arguments, and are positioned to take on as much responsibility as they can handle. By the time our associates are ready for promotion to partner, they should have hands-on experience with all aspects of litigation.

That kind of experience leads to the levels of confidence you need to succeed as you advance in your career. We combine that with access to technology tools and freedom to work on softer skills like business development with the goal that they will be fully prepared as they advance in their careers.