

# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

An **ALM** Publication

NLJ.COM | November/December 2021

## 2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

### APPELLATE HOT LIST

## Williams & Connolly

- **Tell us about your top U.S. Supreme Court or federal appeals court victory over the past year and how you and your team achieved the win.** In *Carr v. Saul*, the Supreme Court held that principles of issue exhaustion do not require Social Security disability claimants to argue at the agency level that administrative law judges hearing their disability claims were unconstitutionally appointed. In *The Andy Warhol Foundation v. Goldsmith*, the [United States Court of Appeals for the] Second Circuit held that iconic works by Andy Warhol were not a fair use of our client's copyright to her photograph of the musician Prince. In both cases, we appealed to common-sense principles of fairness to convince the courts we were right on the law.
- **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** The breadth of our talent. Three different partners (Lisa Blatt, Sarah Harris, and Amy Saharia) argued in the Supreme Court during the past term. From top to bottom, each appellate team has exceptionally talented lawyers with diverse viewpoints and experiences.



AMY SAHARIA, PARTNER

- **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** Winning for our clients. Clients come to us when the stakes are high, and often when they've already lost below. Repaying their trust with a big win brings us great satisfaction.
- **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Leave no stone unturned. Dig deep into the facts and the law. You sometimes find the winning argument in the unlikeliest of places. ■