

# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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## 2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

### LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR: PRODUCTS LIABILITY WINNER

## Williams & Connolly

- **Describe your firm's approach to litigation and your strategy for building successful teams for trials or other matters.** Our guiding approach is to put our clients' interests first, and to be principled—every success we have at some level is derived from our credibility as lawyers. Also, we take great pride in the diversity of our trial teams.
- **Discuss the two biggest litigation cases your firm worked on in 2020 and how you reached successful outcomes.** In March 2020, the Firm secured a significant Seventh Circuit win in *Dolin v. GlaxoSmithKline*, one of the first cases applying *Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. v. Albrecht*.

In *In re Incretin-Based Therapies Products Liability Litigation*, W&C crafted and led a multi-defendant strategy resulting in dismissal of 2,500-plus MDL and JCCP claims related to Merck's popular diabetes treatment, JANUVIA. Rather than bring an appeal, plaintiffs' counsel are recommending that clients dismiss their claims with prejudice.

- **What are the most challenging and satisfying aspects of your work in litigation?** The



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most challenging aspects are the also the most satisfying: facing complex legal problems, and devising creative strategies to solve them. That's always a team effort, and even more satisfying when younger lawyers generate ideas that win the case.

- **What is the most important piece of advice you'd share with young lawyers?** Rule one is to prepare—and when you think you're done, prepare more. Seize opportunities to take a leadership role on even a small piece of a case. ■