

APPELLATE **HOT LIST**

| A SPECIAL REPORT

When the stakes were high, the 20 law firms featured in this year's special report delivered—winning big in federal and state appeals courts across the country. They won landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions on closely watched cases including those over affirmative action, patent infringement and a labor dispute. They also represented some of the most well-known companies in the land, among them Bank of America Corp., Chevron Corp. and the National Football League. These are their stories.

Williams & Connolly

Williams & Connolly and its appellate team leader Kannon Shanmugam had a busy year untangling disputes with the government.

"The success of the appellate group and the number of cases illustrate the depth of the bench," said Allison Jones Rushing, a senior associate who worked on two appeals related to the financial crisis and two U.S. Supreme Court cases, one argued this year and one scheduled for 2017. "Kannon is out in front, but he's able to do that because of the amount of attorneys supporting him."

Rushing and another appellate litigator, Amy Saharia, will become Williams & Connolly partners alongside Shanmugam on Jan. 1.

Last year, a civil fraud matter and a criminal fraud case pitted the firm against federal prosecutors. Both outcomes were considered major setbacks for the Justice Department. In the first case, Williams & Connolly represented Bank of America Corp. at the trial and appellate levels, arguing the government

could not use a fraud statute to show the bank's liability for bad mortgages sold by Countrywide Financial, which Bank of America acquired in 2008. The Second Circuit reversed a \$1.3 billion judgment against the bank.

In the latter matter, Williams & Connolly represented bond trader Jesse Litvak in a case related to the Troubled Asset Relief Program federal bailout. At issue: Does a trader's alleged lies about pricing constitute fraud? The Second Circuit reversed and vacated his convictions. Litvak will be tried again.

"It's satisfying when you have an individual client, to think that he's celebrating the holidays with his family when the outcome could have been very different," Rushing said.

Shanmugam won a third major appeal for the firm in 2016, representing AstraZeneca PLC before the Federal Circuit in a dispute with generic drug makers.

An assistant to former U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement during George W. Bush's administration, Shanmugam



KANNON SHANMUGAM

DIEGO M. RADZINSKI

may have the chance to further bolster the firm's appellate reputation. He has been discussed as a possible solicitor general candidate in the Trump administration.

—KATELYN POLANTZ