

THE 2024 NLJ AWARDS: PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE— APPELLATE HOT LIST

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FINALIST: GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER

Answered by: Allyson Ho, Partner and Co-Chair of Gibson Dunn's Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group

■ **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.**

We notched two Supreme Court wins this year—one in a high-profile Eighth Amendment case involving municipalities' efforts to combat homelessness, the other in a closely watched bankruptcy case dealing with insurers' participation in Chapter 11 proceedings. In both, we persuaded the Supreme Court to grant review and reverse by highlighting the serious practical implications of the decisions below and underscoring the pressing need for Supreme Court review sooner rather than later. We also assembled effective amicus coalitions—including scholars, trade organizations, and public-interest groups—to demonstrate the high stakes involved and the pressing need for Supreme Court review and reversal.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?**

We're passionate about working seamlessly with our clients and our colleagues who are subject-matter experts to distill complicated areas of the law and craft arguments that are persuasive to generalist judges.

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?**

Figuring out how to turn the most challenging counterarguments to your advantage—so that by the time you step up to the podium at oral argument, you're not dreading but actually eager for the toughest questions.

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?**

There's just no substitute for putting in the reps. Working hard is the only thing that works 100% of the time for 100% of the things worth achieving.

