

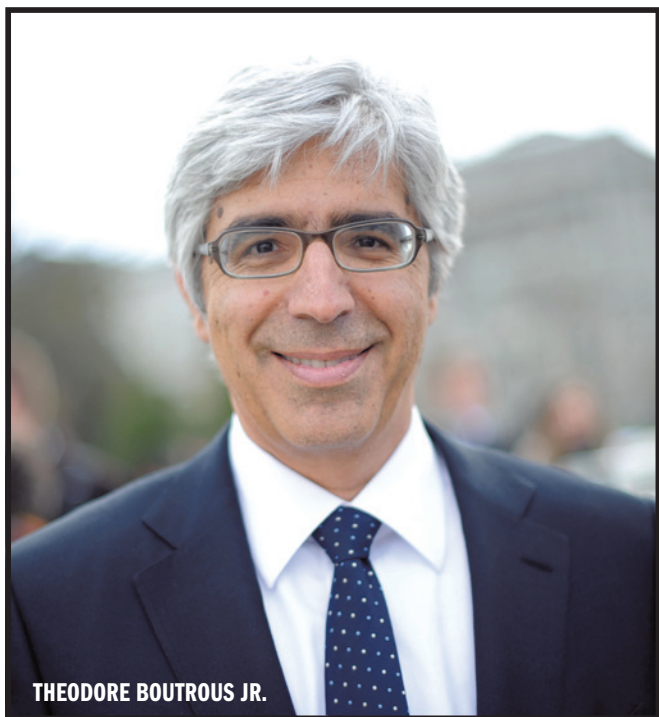
A SPECIAL REPORT

APPELLATE **HOT LIST**

**2014**

We've identified 20 firms with outstanding achievements before the U.S. Supreme Court, federal circuit courts and state courts of last resort. The range of matters they handled were vast—from same-sex marriage to big-bank class actions to intellectual property battles. We asked our readers to nominate firms with at least one significant appellate win since January 2013 and with an impressive track record overall. To settle upon the firms listed below, we supplemented that material with our own reporting.

# APPELLATE HOT LIST



THEODORE BOUTROUS JR.

DIEGO M. RADZINSKI

## Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

patenting business methods, including those involving computers or the Internet, which account for a disproportionate amount of patent litigation, said Thomas Hungar, a Washington partner and group co-chairman.

Alice Corp.'s lawyer Carter Phillips, a Washington partner who chairs Sidley Austin's

executive committee, said his opponents effectively crafted a narrow enough argument to avoid the perception that they were attacking software patents in general.

"It's nice to have Gibson on the other side of cases, because you know what to expect, which is excellent work done ethically," Phillips said.

Automotive company Daimler A.G. turned to Gibson Dunn to appeal a loss at the Ninth Circuit. The firm's Supreme Court win in *Daimler v. Bauman* in January held that the German company could not be sued in California over alleged human rights abuses by an Argentine subsidiary.

The ruling set important limits on U.S. courts' jurisdiction over foreign companies, said Boutrous, a partner at Gibson Dunn's Los Angeles headquarters and co-chairman of its appellate and constitutional law group.

On a different field, a September 2013 Second Circuit ruling allowed energy company Chevron Corp. to move ahead with a racketeering and fraud trial challenging a \$9.2 billion Ecuadorian judgment against the company.

The Second Circuit's *In re Hugo Gerardo Camacho Naranjo and Javier Piaguaje Payaguaje* ruling refused to take the case away from Southern District of New York Judge Lewis Kaplan or to vacate four of his orders. In March 2014, Kaplan ruled that the foreign judgment was "procured by fraud" and knocked out the huge judgment against Chevron.

In July, at the Fourth Circuit, the group prevailed in a pro bono win that affirmed a Virginia federal court ruling that struck down the state's ban on same-sex marriage. "We just want the best lawyers in the world handling important issues," Boutrous said.

—SHERI QUALTERS