

A SPECIAL REPORT

## APPELLATE HOT LIST

We are proud to present the 2020 Appellate Hot List honorees. These firms tackled novel issues and undoubtedly faced unprecedented challenges over the past year, boasting high-profile and high-stakes wins in the nation's highest appellate courts across a number of practice areas—from Constitutional rights to immigration law to pharmaceutical and intellectual property disputes. Here, these winning firm leaders share their appellate successes, insights and lessons learned along the way. —Sarah Tincher, managing editor

### JENNER & BLOCK

■ **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.** *McGirt v. Oklahoma* was special. First, it was a challenging case. We knew we were right, but had to convince five Justices to embrace a result that might've seemed counterintuitive. Second, the team was terrific, especially my partner, Zach Schauf, and Assistant Federal Public Defender Patti Ghezzi. Third, the case had real impact. Both of my clients are getting new trials, and the decision resonated throughout Indian Country. Justice Neil Gorsuch's opinion acknowledged historical mistreatment of tribes, reaffirmed the United States' commitment to its treaty promises, and committed to the rule of law, not the rule of the strong. That was powerful.

■ **WHAT WAS YOUR FIRM'S KEY TO APPELLATE SUCCESS OVER THE PAST YEAR?** Collaboration and teamwork. We have an extraordinarily experienced team at Jenner & Block, and we make sure we tap into that broad range of knowledge and talent, rather than rely on one or two people to carry the load.

■ **WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ELEMENT OF APPELLATE PRACTICE, IN YOUR OPINION?** Mentoring other lawyers. Whether at the Department of Justice's Federal Programs branch, or the Solicitor General's Office, or Jenner & Block, I've most enjoyed helping others figure out how to improve as lawyers and get more satisfaction out of practicing law.



■ **WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED AS A YOUNG LAWYER?** Associate with people whom you respect and admire. You will enjoy your work, produce a better product, and be a happier person. Good things will then follow.

*Submitted by Ian Gershengorn, a partner and chair of the appellate and Supreme Court practice at Jenner & Block.*