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2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

APPELLATE HOT LIST

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.**

One of the cases I'm proudest of over the last year was our victory before the en banc DC Circuit in the McGahn subpoena dispute. The case presented complicated separation of powers questions on one of the great issues of the day. With all the different doctrines in play, at times it felt like the world's hardest fed courts exam. We were very pleased to have prevailed in arguing that the Judiciary Committee had standing to seek enforcement of its subpoena of executive officer in court. And it was a great team effort both inside Jenner—where we drew on the immense talent of our appellate associates and partners—and with the House General Counsel's Office, which provided great partnership and expertise.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** People sometimes think appellate practice is isolating. At our firm it's not—every brief and every argument is the product of a ton of collaboration. And collaboration during a pandemic is challenging. I'm proud that we didn't really lose a step in moving from open door conversations to zoom chats.



MATTHEW HELLMAN, PARTNER

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** It just never gets old solving hard problems with great colleagues. I'm so lucky to work with not just some of the most talented lawyers in our field, but some of the best people as well.

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Keep your antenna up. Insights can come from anyone and anywhere. We work on hard problems and it takes everyone's contributions to come up with the best answers. ■