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JONATHAN YOUNGWOOD



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Q ■ What are some of your proudest recent achievements?

A ■ I am extraordinarily proud of our litigation department's across-the-board successes in a wide range of practice areas. Here is just a sample of our recent achievements:

- A team including Tyler Robinson and Noah Leibowitz won a \$525 million award for Daiichi Sankyo in a contentious ICC arbitration in Singapore.

- William Russell and bankruptcy partner Sandeep Qusba secured a full recovery for Gawker Media's unsecured creditors, including the legendary Terry Bollea (better known as Hulk Hogan).

- Mary Beth Forshaw, Lynn Neuner, Chet Kronenberg, Elisa Alcabes, George Wang and their team negotiated a highly favorable recovery for Travelers after the jury was empaneled for trial in a long-running dispute over Travelers' entitlement to reinsurance coverage for asbestos injury-related claims.

- Joe McLaughlin and his team convinced the Eighth Circuit to reverse class certification in a securities fraud action against Best Buy. On remand, the district court denied plaintiffs' request to file a new motion for class certification.

- Teams led by Tom Rice and David Woll have dramatically narrowed the scope of potential legal liability for many of the world's largest investment banks in more than 50 RMBS-related actions. Their long roster of successes includes a landmark New York Court of Appeals ruling that, according to *The American Lawyer*, "close[d] the door on untold billions in potential future claims related to securities sold before the housing bubble burst."

- Paul Curnin and Nicholas Goldin conducted a high-profile internal investigation of the Wounded Warrior Project's spending and outreach-related practices, which had been the subject of a media firestorm and Congressional inquiry.

- A team led by Jim Kreissman fended off a securities fraud class action arising out of Alibaba's record-breaking \$25 billion IPO.

I worked with Jim, Simona Strauss and others on this headline-making engagement.

- Janet Gochman and I procured a string of outcome-determinative rulings on behalf of a number of important Firm clients. For example, we persuaded the Seventh Circuit to affirm dismissal with prejudice of a class action suit against JPMorgan Chase on SLUSA grounds.

Janet and I also convinced the Second Circuit to affirm dismissal of a long-running ERISA stock drop class action suit stemming from the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers. Most recently, we obtained the dismissal of a securities fraud class action against La Quinta.

Q: What does it mean to be a leader?

A: The most impressive leaders I have met are those who consistently provide their colleagues and team members with the resources and independence they need to do their best work.

Q: Name a lawyer or mentor whose leadership inspired you.

A: My career has been shaped by so many excellent lawyers that it is difficult to name just one. What the lawyers I most admire have in common is a record of balancing excellence in private sector work with meaningful public service or pro bono commitments. I have tried hard to follow in their footsteps by pursuing pro bono engagements throughout my career.

Earlier this year, the firm partnered with the ACLU and the ACLU of Mississippi to challenge unconstitutional, racially-targeted policing practices in Madison County, Mississippi. I am working with a dedicated Simpson Thacher team including Janet Gochman, Isaac Rethy and Nihara Choudhri to litigate this important

case, which has the potential to establish standards for non-discriminatory policing that can be applied throughout the United States. The Madison County suit has been the subject of extensive press coverage in *CBS News*, *CNN*, *Time*, *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic* and *The Washington Post*, among other media outlets.

Q: How are the business and profession of law changing, and how should lawyers adapt for the future?

A: In some ways, technological developments and economic headwinds have brought about significant changes in the practice and business of law. But the key features of good lawyering have remained the same. Providing a client with exceptional representation will always require meticulous attention to the law and the facts, careful strategizing, creative thinking, and a paramount focus on the client's needs and goals. These essential skills will always be in demand in the legal marketplace.

Q: What is the best advice for someone considering a career in law, or someone already in the profession who is seeking to make a greater impact?

A: Make time for public service and pro bono work. It will broaden your horizons, expand your network, and enrich your personal and professional life in ways you might not expect.

One other piece of advice I frequently give young lawyers is to pursue intellectually challenging work. Constantly learning and pushing your personal boundaries will keep you engaged throughout the course of your career.