



## LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: INSURANCE

# SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT







### SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT TEAM

*From left, partners Bryce Friedman, Susannah Geltman, Mary Beth Forshaw, Lynn Neuner, and counsel Summer Craig*

**Q&A** **What are some of the department's most satisfying successes of the past year and why? We are very happy that, after 15 years of litigation, we were able to resolve our client's claim against its reinsurers for more than \$500 million.** This case began in 2002, after Travelers' affiliate USF&G paid nearly \$1 billion to resolve a dispute with Western MacArthur over insurance coverage for thousands of asbestos injury-related claims. Travelers turned to Simpson Thacher for representation when USF&G's reinsurers refused to honor their contractual obligations. For more than a decade, the case went up and down to the Appellate Division and Court of

#### LAW FIRM PROFILE

	<b>\$1,375.66M</b> GROSS REVENUE LAST YEAR	<b>\$1,302M</b> IN 2016
	<b>#17</b> 2018 AM LAW 200 RANKING	<b>#16</b> IN 2017
	<b>\$3.68M</b> PROFIT PER EQUITY PARTNER	<b>\$1.39M</b> RPL
	<b>988</b> ATTORNEYS	
<b>187</b> EQUITY PARTNERS	<b>0</b> NON EQUITY	<b>621</b> ASSOCIATES

Appeals. The last reinsurer agreed to pay shortly after we selected a New York County jury in one of the most important U.S. reinsurance litigations in the last two decades.

Over a span of ten days last year, Simpson Thacher insurance litigators had the unique opportunity to successfully argue three important insurance cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

First, the Second Circuit affirmed the judgment in favor of the firm's clients, dismissing a "whistleblower" claim alleging violations of the United States False Claims Act by more than 25 insurance companies. The case is styled *United States ex rel. Dr. Kent Takemoto v. Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, et al.* Second, the Second Circuit affirmed six summary judgment orders in favor of the firm's client finding no obligation to indemnify Northrop Grumman for decades-long contamination of aquifers in Long Island, New York. The case is styled *Travelers Indemnity Company, et al. v. Northrop Grumman Corp., et al.* Third, acting as appellate counsel, the firm obtained a ruling from the Second Circuit vacating an \$80+ million dollar judgment against the firm's client arising from coverage for environmental liabilities. The case is styled *Olin Corp. v. Lamorak Insurance Company.*

**A prospective client in crisis calls and asks why your team should be retained. What is your answer? We are problem-solvers who will quickly and efficiently identify and simplify the factual and legal issues facing your business.** We will immediately wrap ourselves around the issue to help craft a creative, achievable solution. Our deep bench of advocates for insurers will work tirelessly

to achieve the result best for your business, whether through negotiation, aggressive litigation or other means appropriate for the problem at hand.

**What traits do you respect most in opposing firms and lawyers? We appreciate thoughtful, creative adversaries who always act professionally and treat others as they wish to be treated themselves.**

**What sorts of trends are you seeing in litigation, and what do you think will be the most important development in the law/legal business that will impact your field in the next 10 years? The trend of subject-matter specialization will continue.** We are fortunate, however, in that this trend results in a continued and growing premium on our increasingly rare, broad-based experience and track record of success we bring to representing insurers in coverage, business practices and commercial disputes of all shapes and forms, particularly where a matter has potential ramifications beyond the dispute at hand. **What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm? Simpson Thacher insurance litigators have a long history of being fearless trial lawyers** who can and do take big, important matters for insurers to litigated conclusion before judges, juries and arbitrators. We will continue to give young lawyers opportunities to stand on their own two feet and perform. We benefit enormously from strong, deep relationships with clients who understand that relying on younger lawyers to shine at all stages of litigation is critical to maintaining the best representation possible now and in the future.