**LAW360**

# 2017 Rising Star
# Tianjing 'Tiana' Zhang

Tianjing "Tiana" Zhang leads Kirkland & Ellis LLP's white collar and cross-border litigation practice from her home base in Shanghai. But Zhang is a true international expert, with deep legal experience and training in the U.S. and China, and experience counseling multinationals like Baxter International, Tenneco Inc. and Syngenta, landing her among *Law360*'s Rising Stars.

### The biggest case of her career, and how it was challenging:

Working in areas like antitrust, securities and anti-corruption law, many of Zhang's clients and the government authorities investigating them hail from vastly different legal, cultural and ideological backgrounds. While misunderstandings can be a roadblock, Zhang says she enjoys the challenge.

Zhang, who helped defend Trina Solar from a predatory pricing conspiracy suit from Solyndra Residual Trust, said a major task going in was explaining to the client's Chinese-speaking senior managers complex U.S. antitrust law theories, discovery procedures and how to properly manage the suit in the U.S. legal system. At the same time, special Chinese issues, such as relevant government policies and trade association activities in China, also became important issues during the litigation. The case settled.

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"To achieve good results for the clients, it is critical to bridge the cognitive gap, clarify misunderstandings and build trust with both sides," she said. "The intellectual experiences associated with the efforts to overcome these challenges have become an important reason why the practice is appealing to me."

### Her proudest moment as an attorney:

"Born, brought up and receiving my first legal degree in China, I could not forget the first time I argued a summary judgment motion in front of a California court. I won the motion and received kind compliments from the judge. It wasn't a particularly significant case comparing to the other matters I have worked on since then. But the confidence in the openness of the U.S. judicial system that developed from that experience has been one of the main forces supporting my past 10 years as a practicing U.S. litigation attorney."

### Other notable work:

Zhang represented Tenneco Inc. in connection with a global investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division into multiple automotive suppliers. In 2014, the

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DOJ granted Tenneco conditional leniency under the Antitrust Division's corporate leniency policy.

Zhang has also been on the Kirkland team defending international agribusiness giant Syngenta in multidistrict federal and state claims that the company's genetically modified corn seed caused China to reject U.S. shipments and depressed corn prices. Among other wins, Kirkland secured partial summary judgment last year that effectively dismissed most of the claims against Syngenta as being preempted by the Grain Standards Act of 1916. The case is ongoing.

### Why she is a white collar and government investigations attorney:

Zhang cites the "intellectually intriguing" nature of white collar and investigative practice, particularly the fact-finding and the legal analysis

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required when matters cross borders and legal systems.

"I have had the opportunity to conduct multi-jurisdiction fact findings in many matters, including when representing Tenneco in connection with a DOJ antitrust investigation and representing Baxter

in an FCPA investigation," she said. "The excitement associated with uncovering crucial facts and figuring out complicated stories by piecing together vast amount of evidence is addictive."

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