



2020 MVP

Sandra Goldstein

Sandra C. Goldstein of Kirkland & Ellis LLP secured a discovery stay for shipping technology giant Pitney Bowes and garnered dismissal of shareholder claims against former officers and directors of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc., including three members of the Murdoch family, earning her a spot among Law360's 2020 Securities MVPs.

Her biggest recent accomplishment:

Goldstein told Law360 her most notable recent challenge was arguing a precedent-setting Private Securities Litigation Reform Act discovery stay in state court for Pitney Bowes and its directors — the first time in more than two decades a defense firm has successfully won such a stay over plaintiffs' objections, according to Kirkland. Following the stay, Goldstein went on to argue and win dismissal of the entire case.

She said that her victories offer a “roadmap for how to litigate a federal securities case in state court.” In the wake of the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Cyan Inc. v. Beaver County Employees Retirement Fund* — which held that state courts can continue to hear certain securities class actions brought under federal law — there are going to be many more suits bringing claims under the Securities Act of 1933 in state court, according to Goldstein.

“Having the team come together to produce excellent work and deliver

a terrific result for our client that hadn't been achieved before was obviously particularly rewarding,” she said of the effort. “None of these accomplishments are mine alone, not even close — there's a ton of teamwork and collaboration that goes into this.”

“Winning an important case like that, with a great team collaborating all the way through, is frankly as rewarding an accomplishment as anything else,” she added.

Her biggest challenge this year:

Goldstein, like many attorneys, has felt the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on her day-to-day work.

“In light of COVID, it's been challenging to balance both the

“Winning an important case...with a great team collaborating all the way through, is frankly as rewarding an accomplishment as anything else.”

legal workload as well as managing the litigation department in New York while everyone's working from home. It's not only handling the client workload and managing all the cases but leading the New York litigation group," she said.

"Early on," she continued, "it was extremely important to make sure that we all found ways to stay connected, that we made sure we understood what everybody was going through and had compassion for each other in terms of dealing with the various issues that people were facing — while at the same time running a business and, frankly, being busier this year than we even were last year."

Goldstein added that her entire group "has been extremely cohesive throughout this time" and "demonstrated every bit as much drive as we've ever had."

Her proudest moment this year:

Goldstein identified her co-workers' togetherness and productivity as a profound achievement this year.

"I am extremely proud of the depth and breadth of the securities litigation we're doing as a team —

and that includes both M&A litigation and securities litigation," she said, noting that the firm's clients include a roster of blue-chip companies including Honeywell, Six Flags, Xerox, Pitney Bowes, Bristol Myers Squibb and Barnes & Noble, as well as a number of big private equity firms.

She added that she considers it a privilege and a pleasure to collaborate with colleagues across the firm's other practice groups — "and our clients really benefit tremendously from the cross-practice strength," she noted.

Why she's a securities attorney:

Goldstein pointed to "the complexity and intensity" of securities and M&A litigation as qualities that she loves in her work. "Both have elements of multidimensional chess: a lot of strategy and tactics that are very client-specific. There's really not a one-size-fits-all [approach]. The clients have very different needs and wants in securities and M&A litigation," she said.

The relationships she forms with clients are a big part of that, according to Goldstein. "Being the clients' business partner along the

way in these kinds of litigations is very gratifying," she said.

What motivates her:

Goldstein described herself as "a people person," saying that she relishes "working in a team, collaborating with our clients and our very talented lawyers at Kirkland and working together on strategy and tactics to get the clients the results they want."

However, she noted, "I would be remiss if I didn't add to this that I love winning for my clients, and I hate losing."

"I will always work very, very hard to achieve that win," she said. "And that is motivating for me — to win and not to lose, and to win for and with my clients, hand in hand, is enough motivation for me."

Her advice to junior attorneys:

Goldstein urged lawyers beginning their careers to have confidence in their abilities. "Work really hard, use good judgment and be confident, because you know more than you think," she said. "It's important to be inspired by others but equally important not to be afraid to find your own voice and develop your own style."

"It's important to be inspired by others but equally important not to be afraid to find your own voice and develop your own style."

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE OCTOBER 7, 2020 EDITION OF LAW360 © 2020 PORTFOLIO MEDIA INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FURTHER DUPLICATION WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

WWW.LAW360.COM