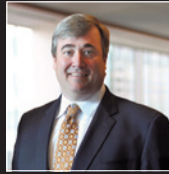


CHICAGO LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR

A SPECIAL REPORT



In this issue, The National Law Journal spotlights litigation departments at law firms in Chicago. We asked top litigation practices to tell us about their operations—head counts and revenues, biggest wins and even their losses. The NLJ staff then pored over the information and selected the nine firms you'll read about in these pages. Dentons earned the top spot, but it was a close call, and we selected two finalists: Jenner & Block and Jones Day. We also recognize firms with distinguished practices in intellectual property, insurance, mass torts and class actions, and white-collar defense. We highlighted two firms for their labor and employment work.



REED SMITH

INSURANCE

BY SHERI QUALTERS

An abundance of courtroom experience and a deep bench across practices and locations help Reed Smith win big insurance trials and strike favorable settlements.

Insurance litigation is often a case within a case because disputes frequently involve the firm's other practices, including environmental liability or intellectual property, partner John Vishneski said. The firm is "totally committed" to a policyholder practice, one that works effectively with an array of Reed Smith's practices, he said.

For its accomplishments in 2013, Reed Smith is The National Law Journal's Chicago Litigation Department of the Year in the insurance category.

Last year, the firm secured a \$125 million settlement for Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. with various insurer carriers. A \$360 million fraud on a Japanese subsidiary of Lehman triggered the dispute.

Lehman's New York state court case was about using a \$175 million policy that covers losses from crime.

"You need the top talent and ability to take complex issues and complex arguments and convey

your points," said Reed Smith partner Carolyn Rosenberg, who was on the case team.

That combination helped Reed Smith win two Illinois court cases last year. In April 2013, the group scored a state court summary judgment for Illinois Tool Works Inc. of Glenview, Ill. The case, now on appeal, involves the company's long-running fight to secure insurance coverage for personal injury suits over its use of toxins including benzene. That's worth about \$10 million to the company so far, Vishneski said.

One month earlier, the team prevailed on an unusual pollution-insurance issue before

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SUCCESS INSURED: Partners John Shugrue, left, Carolyn Rosenberg and John Vishneski work closely with other practices at Reed Smith to keep policyholders happy.

the Illinois Appellate Court for Phoenix-based waste-management company Republic Services Inc. The multimillion-dollar ruling means Indian Harbor Insurance Co. must defend Republic in about 2,000 mass tort cases related to a Chicago-area landfill.

The firm's insurance lawyers, including 23 in Chicago, tap a network of colleagues throughout the United States and the world when tackling novel and complex questions, according to partner John Shugrue. "It at least provides a starting point that we can

build on," he said.

Kimberly Melvin, a partner at Washington's Wiley Rein, said her Reed Smith opponents in a Virginia state court case who sought directors & officers' insurance coverage for a securities lawsuit were "tremendous advocates."

Reed Smith represented Online Resources Corp., now part of ACI Worldwide Inc. of Naples, Fla. The case settled for confidential terms in December. "They're consummate professionals" said Melvin, who represented one of several insurers.

—SHERI QUALTERS

KEYS TO SUCCESS

▶ Successful lawyers have done all of their homework and also have taken a step back and asked, "What is it a client is seeking to achieve?" and "What is the best route to do that in a collaborative and cost-effective way?" —CAROLYN ROSENBERG

▶ In coverage litigation, there are many battles, some worth fighting and some not worth fighting. The key is to recognize the difference. —JOHN VISHNESKI

▶ Make your best judgment and pass that to your client. Our clients pay us for our judgment—they don't want to hear "On the one hand this, on the other hand that."

—JOHN SHUGRUE