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2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: WHITE COLLAR

Covington & Burling

■ **Describe your firm's approach to litigation and your strategy for building successful teams for trials or other matters.** Covington enjoys a deep reservoir of credibility with regulators. Regulators trust us to be honest brokers with the facts of a case, even as they also know we will be scrappy and tenacious advocates on behalf of our clients.

■ **Discuss the two biggest litigation cases your firm worked on in 2020 and how you reached successful outcomes.** With an extraordinary year of courtroom victories, more than 20 DOJ or SEC declinations, and congressional investigations under the glare of an intense media spotlight, it's hard to pick. However, our track record with regulators is especially noteworthy because we secured declinations in bet-the-company investigations that were exhaustively investigated by the government over many years. Matters for Roche and Alexion are perfect examples. Alexion faced a long-running, multi-country FCPA investigation, and Roche confronted a DOJ investigation related to allegedly illegal payments in Iraq splashed on the front page. Those and many other investigations ended with declinations.

■ **What are the most challenging and satisfying aspects of your work in litigation?** It is immensely



STEVE FAGELL

gratifying to safely and successfully guide clients through a government investigation or prosecution and ultimately ensure that justice is done.

■ **What is the most important piece of advice you'd share with young lawyers?** Successful legal careers take years to blossom, but they all require passion for the law. So figure out what you love in the law and then try to do that. ■