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2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: GENERAL LITIGATION

Covington & Burling

■ **Describe your firm's approach to litigation and your strategy for building successful teams for trials or other matters.** We combine tenacious courtroom advocacy with the "Covington plus factor"—deep regulatory knowledge, government enforcement experience, and political savvy. We build great teams by structuring our internal incentives to promote collaboration and bring the right person to the job.

■ **Discuss the two biggest litigation cases your firm worked on in 2020 and how you reached successful outcomes.** Covington won an improbable and highly-publicized preliminary injunction for TikTok, preventing the Trump Administration from banning the widely used social media app. In another case, Covington secured an unprecedented 20th appellate win for Roche, continuing a string in which we won the reversal of every adverse plaintiff jury verdict to reach appellate review and bringing an end to the Accutane mass tort which at its peak involved more than 8,000 cases.

■ **What are the most challenging and satisfying aspects of your work in litigation?** The most challenging disputes for today's global businesses are multi-faceted, frequently extending across different forums, and involving a government enforcement



JOHN HALL, PARTNER

overlay. This is exactly where Covington shines—we pride ourselves on finding the most creative solutions to the toughest problems.

■ **What is the most important piece of advice you'd share with young lawyers?** Strive to build meaningful relationships with colleagues and clients, so that when the stress builds—as it will in any difficult piece of litigation—you are part of a team. ■