

The Firms That Dominated In 2018

By **Sam Reisman**

Law360 (January 13, 2019, 9:04 PM EST) -- Law360's top four Firms of the Year notched a combined 32 Practice Group of the Year awards after successfully securing wins in bet-the-company matters and closing high-profile, big-ticket deals for clients throughout 2018.

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP led the pack with 11 winning practice areas, with Covington & Burling LLP, Mayer Brown LLP and King & Spalding LLP each tied at seven.

Although the wins are broken down by practice group, firm principals say they are best able to deliver value to their clients by cultivating world-class expertise and working across different groups to develop holistic solutions to complex problems.

"Clients don't think of a problem as an employment problem, per se," Ken Doran, managing partner of Gibson Dunn, said in an interview. "They have a problem and they rely on a firm to put together a team to address that problem. ... The groups that do best are those who are able to very nimbly work with other practice groups to field the very best team."

Congratulations to the 2018 Firms of the Year.

Covington & Burling

Covington & Burling entered the top-ranking firms this year on the strength of its Banking, Government Contracts, Insurance, International Trade, Product Liability, Sports and White Collar groups.

The sports team garnered recognition for its representation of the U.S. Olympics Committee in multiple high-profile matters, including securing a dismissal from the Ninth Circuit in August of a lawsuit that imperiled the U.S. team's ability to raise funds through sponsorship.

Firm of the Year

COVINGTON

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Banking » Government Contracts » Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » International Trade » Product Liability » Sports » White Collar
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In addition to handling traditional sports matters, the group represented both video game companies and professional sports organizations as they developed and launched their own eSports leagues.

The white collar group, too, stood out for its world-class expertise. In February, the group was retained to serve as coordinating counsel for car service behemoth Uber as it faced multiple federal, state and local investigations from an array of government agencies.

Additionally, Covington's white collar team was tapped to co-lead a probe into one of the largest #MeToo scandals to hit corporate America, when CBS Corp. brought in the firm to investigate the alleged misconduct of chairman and CEO Leslie Moonves, as well as the culture at large within the network.

Timothy Hester, Covington's chair, told Law360 that the awards were "an affirmation of our clients' trust that we can help them navigate their most complex business problems, deals and disputes."

He continued, "What sets Covington apart — and is borne out by these Practice Group of the Year awards — is our ability to combine the tremendous strength in our litigation, investigations and corporate practices with deep knowledge of policy and policymakers and one of the world's leading regulatory practices."