

MVP: Covington & Burling's Jennifer Plitsch

By Adam Lidgett

Law360 (October 5, 2020, 6:50 PM EDT) -- Covington & Burling LLP's Jennifer Plitsch has spent much of the past year advising companies like Moderna on how to help deal with the COVID-19 crisis, earning her a spot as one of Law360's 2020 Life Sciences MVPs.

HER BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Plitsch said she had been working with Moderna to get the company to the point of potentially having a vaccine in probably the shortest time ever.

She said she helped the company modify existing agreements with the government to focus on COVID-19 vaccine trials and enter into new agreements to cover those trials.

Her client is "conducting enormous clinical trials and scaling up production to make hundreds of million of doses as quickly as possible," she said.

"This will be their first licensed product, so for them to be moving within the space — from February until now — in the space of less than a year to conduct all these trials and to scale up manufacturing at the same time, it's been an enormous accomplishment," she said. "It's been exciting for me to work with them to help accomplish that."

HER BIGGEST CHALLENGE THIS YEAR:

She said part of the challenge has been juggling working from home during an incredibly busy time in her practice because so many of her clients have needs right now, given COVID-19.

"Not only the amount of demand, but there is so much work to be done," she said, "but also everything is happening on an incredibly expedited basis."

WHY SHE IS A LIFE SCIENCES ATTORNEY:

The practice is "challenging and complicated," yet still "has a very real impact," she said.



"It's always interesting and it always keeps you on your toes to understand what your clients are working on scientifically, but at the same time you can see the impact that my clients have on people's lives," she said.

WHAT MOTIVATES HER:

She said that she enjoys working with clients that do important work every day.

Additionally, she said she feels like she gets to know her clients and know the business and personalities involved.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from working collaboratively with my clients to solve complex problems," she said.

— *As told to Adam Lidgett*

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2020 MVP winners after reviewing more than 900 submissions.