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ALM | LAW.COM NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL LEGAL AWARDS 2025

LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR, WHITE COLLAR: —WINNER: COVINGTON & BURLING

Photo: Diego M. Radzinschi/ALM

Covington & Burling offices in Washington, D.C.

Covington & Burling was named the winner of the National Law Journal Awards' Litigation Departments of the Year, White Collar.

Steve Fagell, partner and co-chair of Covington's white-collar defense and investigations practice, responded to the below Q&A.

Describe your firm's approach to litigation and your strategy for building successful teams for trials or other matters.

Covington lawyers are known for excellence across the board. We build elite teams by drawing from a deep bench of subject-matter experts, combining investigative skill, trial experience, and regulatory fluency to deliver exceptional outcomes.

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Discuss the two biggest litigation cases your firm worked on in 2024 and how you reached successful outcomes.

Covington resolved one of the largest emissions fraud cases in U.S. history for Hino Motors, securing a multiagency resolution without a compliance monitor or independent auditor. The DOJ cited Hino's "exemplary cooperation," which contributed to one of the largest percentage discounts ever granted in a criminal resolution. We also resolved parallel DOJ and SEC FCPA investigations for Stanley Black & Decker with no disgorgement or any action taken—outcomes rarely seen in the FCPA space. These matters reflect Covington's unmatched ability to navigate complex investigations and deliver market-leading results for our clients.

What are the most challenging and satisfying aspects of your work in litigation?

White-collar matters often involve sprawling investigations, intense scrutiny, and existential risk. The challenge is immense—but so is the satisfaction when we guide clients through crisis and secure outcomes that safeguard their business and reputation.

What is the most important piece of advice you'd share with young lawyers?

The legal world is changing in ways that will continue to surprise us. Keep learning, develop new skills, and stay nimble.

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