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Welcome to The Legal 500 US Awards, where we recognize and reward the very best of the best across the legal industry. We pride ourselves on the thorough, in-depth research we carry out in order to produce our rankings of the elite firms and corporate counsel in the United States. This leaves us in a unique position to be able to identify the teams who warrant particular recognition.

The shortlist and winners are based on merit alone, there are no specific submission requests and the results are derived from the research conducted for the directories. The Legal 500 Awards are unique in the legal industry as they recognize each element of the profession equally, representing the very best law firms, corporate counsel and business leaders operating within the US market.

In the pages to follow I will share some of the reasons behind our decisions with you.
IN-HOUSE WINNERS

AVIATION/AEROSPACE
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Stephen Johnson
Executive vice-president, corporate affairs – American Airlines
Stephen Johnson is executive vice-president, corporate affairs, at American Airlines and American Airlines Group. Johnson previously occupied the same role at US Airways prior to its 2013 merger with American Airlines. Since then he has worked through the considerable organizational and legal complexities of uniting two of the world’s largest airlines. In addition to successfully bringing the two companies’ legal teams together, Johnson has dealt expertly with regulatory actions related to the merger.

TEAM OF THE YEAR
Boeing
Led by Michael Lutting, executive vice-president and general counsel
Dealing with the legal issues arising at the world’s largest aerospace company is no small task. The Boeing team are recognized both for their contribution to the company’s ongoing strength. Recently the legal team demonstrated their expertise when completing a number of high profile and high value deals without the assistance of outside counsel.

BANKING
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Gary G Lynch
Global general counsel – Bank of America
Gary G. Lynch is vice-chairman and global general counsel for Bank of America and serves as a member of the bank’s executive management team. He is set to move on from the head legal role later this year, and take up a position as vice chairman. Lynch was a key figure in helping Bank of America reach a settlement with the Department of Justice related to mortgage-securities last year. Lynch, a former chief of the Enforcement Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission, is one of the most respected regulatory lawyers in the US.

TEAM OF THE YEAR
Wells Fargo
Led by James M Strother, general counsel
The Wells Fargo legal team has supported the bank’s forward-thinking product-development and technological advances over the years, helping it to become the first online bank in 1995, and the first to offer mobile banking to businesses in 2007. With a long history in the financial services sector, general counsel and senior executive vice-president James Strother has headed the company’s legal function for 12 years.

ENERGY
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Janet Langford Kelly
Senior vice-president and general counsel – Conoco Phillips
Janet Langford Kelly is senior vice-president, legal, general counsel and corporate secretary at Conoco Phillips. As the chief lawyer at the world’s largest independent exploration and production company, Kelly has to consider some of the most challenging and politically charged issues around, from fracking to climate change to oil price fluctuations. Kelly is one of the most experienced in-house counsel in the US, having previously held senior positions at Kmart Corporation, Kellogg Company and Sara Lee Corporation.
TEAM OF THE YEAR
Wood Group
Led by Martin McIntyre, general counsel
Led by Texas-based general counsel
Martin McIntyre, Wood Group’s global in-house team is a major contributor to the global diversified energy business’ success. The legal team works closely with business functions in major cross-border transactions and is known for its expertise in regulatory matters across the company’s core industries.

ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Todd Moore
Executive vice-president, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary – NCI Building Systems
Having served the NCI Building Systems, one of North America’s largest integrated manufacturers of metal products for the non-residential construction industry, since 1999 in a number of positions, Moore has seen NCI expand quickly across the US, Mexico and Canada. His support during the recent acquisition of CENTRIA helped the company to establish its dominance in the US non-residential construction market.

TEAM OF THE YEAR
The Port Authority of NY and NJ
Led by Darrell Buchbinder, general counsel
The legal team at The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey support the network of bridges, tunnels, airports, seaports and transit in New York City and Northern New Jersey. The team supports the development of major improvements to the infrastructure network. As owner of the World Trade Center site, the Port Authority has worked on its redevelopment since 2001.

ENTERTAINMENT
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
David Hyman
General counsel – Netflix Inc.
David Hyman moved in-house during the dotcom boom of the 90s, taking a position at online grocery business Webvan. He moved to Netflix Inc. in 2002 when the company was a subscription-based DVD rental service. As general counsel he has helped Netflix to redefine the way media content is distributed around the world, overcoming a number of legal challenges.

TEAM OF THE YEAR
CBS
Led by Larry Tu, senior executive vice-president and chief legal officer
The CBS legal team has helped support and protect the portfolio of the most watched television network in the US and one of the world’s largest libraries of entertainment content. Operating within a fast-paced environment, the legal function contains some of the leading media law experts in the US.

ENVIRONMENT
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Amelia Smith
General counsel – Conservation International
Conservation International’s senior vice-president and general counsel Amelia Smith plays a leading role in the non-profit organization’s global projects and campaigns. These have included the Carbon Fund, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and the Global Conservation Fund. She also helps lead Conservation International’s advocacy work with the US Government.
TEAM OF THE YEAR
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Led by Avi Garbow, general counsel
Both in-house counsel and private practice consistently praise the quality of the team at the US Environmental Protection Agency. The strength-in-depth of the team is remarkable for any company or government agency. Keeping good people in-house is a distinct challenge that every agency has to face, and under the inspired leadership of Avi Garbow, the dedication that the team shows sets it apart from all others in the field.

FINANCIAL SERVICES
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Betty A. Whelchel
General counsel, BNP Paribas, Corporate and Investment Banking Americas
Betty A. Whelchel is general counsel for BNP Paribas’ Corporate and Investment Banking Division in the Americas, overseeing corporate and investment activities and managing its legal departments in the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Argentina. She has a deep experience of the financial services industry and is well known for her efforts in the field of US regulatory reform, receiving a number of awards in recognition of her work.

TEAM OF THE YEAR
American Express
Led by Laureen E. Seeger, executive vice-president and general counsel
The American Express legal team played a central role in one of the most eye-catching deals in recent corporate history, helping the company to complete the spin-off of its business-travel division last year. Led by executive vice-president and general counsel Laureen E. Seeger, the team has a long record of providing strong commercial and regulatory advice.

FOOD/BEVERAGE
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Leslie Turner
Senior vice-president, general counsel and secretary – The Hershey Company
In leading the legal, government relations, corporate security and secretary functions at The Hershey Company, Leslie Turner is helping the continuing growth of well-known brands. Turner is recognized for her ability to build strong, commercially-minded legal teams and is frequently praised for her ability to turn the in-house function into a driver of business.

TEAM OF THE YEAR
Starbucks Corp.
Led by Lucy Helm, executive vice-president, general counsel and secretary
Starbucks’ staff of over 200 legal and compliance professionals are not only helping to keep the nation’s coffee flowing, they are mounting a valiant effort to promote diversity within the legal profession. Led by executive vice-president and general counsel Lucy Helm, the team is frequently involved in initiatives to encourage diversity and inclusion among its outside counsel. Helm also follows these principles: two-thirds of her team are women and one-third are members of minority groups.

HEALTHCARE
INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR
Matthew D. Klein
Vice-president and general counsel – Universal Health Services
Operating in the specialist healthcare sector presents unique legal and regulatory challenges, making the expert guidance of a leading general counsel essential. Matthew Klein has been widely identified as a top-tier legal leader for his work at Universal Health Services. Observers comment that the continued growth of the company has been in no small part due to Klein and his team.
The Legal 500 US Awards 2015

**IP**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

Louise Firestone

*Senior vice-president legal affairs and general counsel – LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Inc.*

Louise Firestone has been at LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton since 1999, during which time she has been an integral part of the company’s brand protection strategy in the US. She has representing the company in IP infringement disputes and has built an extraordinary reputation in the legal market, receiving a plethora of awards and speaking at a range of events about her approach to her work as a general counsel.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

Juniper Networks

*Led by Meredith McKenzie, deputy general counsel and head of IP*

Juniper Networks, a multinational corporation headquartered in California that develops networking products such as routers, switches, and network security technology, needs an outstanding in-house legal team to support the development of its often ground-breaking technology. The unique nature of the company’s products has led to a number of high profile patent infringement cases in recent years, with the legal team obtaining some significant settlement fees for the business.

**INSURANCE**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

Thomas Russo

*General counsel – AIG*

AIG’s general counsel Thomas Russo was instrumental in transforming the company’s fortunes, helping to pay off the $182bn bail-out legacy debt to the US Treasury and return the company to surplus in a remarkably short time. In addition to overseeing the biggest ever corporate restructuring and leading a team of around 1,300 people, Russo managed to save hundreds of millions of dollars in legal fees by conducting a systematic reform of the in-house team. His efforts have revolutionized the way in which corporate counsel can deliver value.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

Liberty Mutual

*Led by James F Kelleher, executive vice-president and chief legal officer*

The legal department at Liberty Mutual is known for its commitment to pro-bono work. For the past 20 years, the Liberty Mutual pro-bono program has provided free services to a number of charitable causes and community outreach initiatives.

**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

Rob Liddle

*Vice-president, global labor and employment – McDonald’s*

Rob Liddle manages employment law and labor relations that affect more than 1 million workers across 72 countries worldwide for the McDonald’s franchise. Liddle plays an essential role in the continued success of the popular restaurant chain by developing the legal portions of the human resources frameworks used globally. Liddle has also made a conscious effort to drive diversity initiatives forward in the company by increasing the number of women promoted to management positions.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

Google

*Led by Kent Walker, general counsel*

Google’s legal team of more than 500 people support one of the world’s most innovative companies as it continues to create never-before-seen products and services. The company is well known as one of the
best places to work, and the legal team has contributed to the supportive and creative atmosphere with their initiatives.

**LITIGATION**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

**Pierre Gentin**

_**Global head of litigation – Credit Suisse**_

Pierre Gentin is responsible for the global management of Credit Suisse’s legal disputes, government investigations, regulatory enforcement and employment matters and serves on both the Global Leadership Council and General Management Committee. He is widely recognized as one of the leading lawyers in the US for in managing disputes and investigations.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**American Civil Liberties Union**

_**Led by Terence Dougherty, COO and general counsel**_

The 200 staff attorneys of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) form a core part of its decades old campaign against injustice and are helping the ACLU continue to make history in the campaign for and defence of civil liberties. The team recently achieved a string of litigation and advocacy victories related to equality in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues. The legal team is also praised for running a strong media outreach campaign and for helping the organization to remain a central part of the campaign for public good.

**MEDIA**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

**Seth Kalvert**

_**Senior vice-president, general counsel and secretary – TripAdvisor Inc.**_

Seth Kalvert has been senior vice-president, general counsel and secretary of TripAdvisor since 2011. He is known as both a skilled leader and strong commercial lawyer. Kalvert is praised widely for his expertise in transactional work and structuring deals. He has a strong pedigree in the online and travel market, having previously held positions at Expedia and IAC/InterActiveCorp.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**TiVo**

_**Led by Matthew Zinn, general counsel**_

When general counsel Matthew Zinn joined TiVo around a decade ago he was the company’s only in-house lawyer. Since that time the legal team has grown to become one of the most respected in the media field. Providing consumers with downloadable on-demand entertainment while satisfying the copyright protection claims of content holders has not been easy, but the TiVo team has found a fine balance between privacy and patents issues and commercial challenges.

**NOT-FOR-PROFIT**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

**Kirstine Morain**

_**General counsel – The Robin Hood Foundation**_

Kristine Morain oversees the legal activities of the more than 4,300 local clubs that make up the Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA), a 155 year old non-profit organization that provides after-school programs for millions of young people across the US. Morain, the sole attorney in the organization, manages to keep on top of the broad range of legal duties, including handling sponsorship agreements, working on media and public relations projects, regulatory engagement and litigation, with a support staff of two.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**United Way of New York City**

_**Led by Sunita Subramanian, general counsel**_

The United Way of New York City is a key player in a global network of nearly 1,800 United Way projects that seek to advance the common good by mobilizing local communities. The legal team, led by seasoned transactional and non-profit
attorney Sunita Subramanian, has played an important part in advancing United Way’s core global objectives while keeping in touch with city and community concerns.

**PHARMACEUTICALS**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

Thomas Kendris  
**VP and general counsel, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, and US country head of legal – Novartis**

Thomas Kendris has wide experience in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors and is known as one of the leading in-house lawyers in the industry. Kendris is responsible for all legal matters across Novartis’ divisions in the US. As well as his legal role, he is also a member of the Pharma Executive Committee, the US GenMeds Executive Committee, the Compliance Committee and the Country Executive Committee for Novartis Corporation.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

Oaktree Capital Management  
**Led by Todd Molz, general counsel**

Los Angeles-headquartered alternative investments company Oaktree Capital Management has a legal team that is respected throughout the US in-house market. The team is praised for helping Oaktree deliver high levels of return while acting to the highest ethical standards. Through skilled management, strong teamwork and the guidance of Todd Molz, the company’s lawyers have also achieved commendable levels of efficiency.

**REAL ESTATE/HOUSING**

**INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR**

Kashif Sheikh  
**General counsel – Westbrook Partners**

The legal team at Westbrook Partners, a privately-held US private equity real estate fund manager capitalised by US institutional investors, is led by Kashif Sheikh, managing principal and general counsel. Sheikh has overall responsibility for the legal aspects of all transactions made by the company, including investment of approximately $10 billion of equity in $40 billion of real estate transactions in major markets throughout the world.

**TEAM OF THE YEAR**

Jones Lang LaSalle  
**Led by Mark Ohringer, general counsel**

Legal teams are often spoken of as the conscience of the company, and this is definitely true for the Jones Lang LaSalle team
that helps guide one of the recognized leaders in global business ethics and corporate social responsibility. The team, led by Mark Ohringer, is also noted for its efficiency and ability to deliver top-tier levels of performance.

SPORT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Rick Buchanan
General counsel – The National Basketball Association Inc. (NBA)

The joke amongst those who work at the NBA is that the organization’s initials stand for ‘nothing but attorneys’; a result of the number of lawyers in senior management positions at the company. With so many experienced lawyers among its leadership committee the NBA’s general counsel would need to be a superstar to stand out. In Rick Buchanan the company has just that. Responsible for a team of 24 lawyers, Buchanan takes a lead on everything from league- and player-related issues to commercial and licensing activities.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Major League Soccer

Led by Bill Ordower, senior vice-president and general counsel

Led by Bill Ordower, senior vice-president and general counsel, the legal team is praised for helping realize Major League Soccer’s (MLS) ambitions to become one of the best soccer leagues in the world. The team has dealt skilfully with the many commercial and licensing issues MLS has faced during its recent expansion into new cities and markets.

TECHNOLOGY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Julio Avalos
General counsel – GitHub

Open source software platform GitHub relies on its legal team of seven to help it negotiate the myriad issues it faces as a fast-growing tech company. The in-house team is noted for its ability to interact with the technical aspects of GitHub’s operations while communicating with the company’s other staff in a language they will understand. Though small, the team is praised for its broad-ranging expertise and ability to protect and advise the company on almost any matter.
TEAM OF THE YEAR

Yahoo!
*Led by Ron Bell, general counsel*

The Yahoo! US legal department sits at the center of a global team with responsibility for simultaneous product launches in multiple jurisdictions and is known for its ability to collaborate and coordinate across borders and practice areas. With the company’s operations covering everything from social media and mobile applications to communications and ecommerce, the team, led by Ron Bell, is frequently called upon to find new approaches and think creatively. Recently, the team have been working on the set-up of a new publically-traded investment company as part of Yahoo’s spin-off of its remaining Alibaba holdings.

TELECOMS

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Richard Nohe
*General counsel, Americas region – BT*

Richard Nohe is responsible for BT’s legal, governance, compliance and regulatory matters across the Americas. He is praised by both the firms that work with him and those who work in the wider TMT sector for his ability to understand and deal with issues before most people are aware of them. In a constantly evolving technological landscape, Nohe’s leadership has helped BT adapt to new risks and turn them into opportunities.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

LightSquared
*Led by Curtis Lu, general counsel*

LightSquared, which delivers mobile satellite voice and data services throughout North America, has faced many difficulties in the past three years. The legal team have helped the company work through bankruptcy proceedings and related disputes with creditors to help it start a fresh chapter as a pioneering wireless internet services provider. The team has navigated through this difficult period using a commendable mix of experience, knowledge, patience and communication to close one of the longest and most litigious bankruptcies in recent years.

TRANSPORT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Salle Yoo
*General counsel – Uber*

In the three years she has been with the company, Salle Yoo has helped rideshare service Uber grow into a $40 billion entity operating in nearly 60 countries around the world. As a noted disruptor in the transportation sector, the legal and regulatory challenges Uber has faced during this period have been formidable. Yoo and her team of lawyers have had to deal with everything from data security to international licensing laws, but those who have seen her work say Yoo has consistently anticipated issues and helped find ways for the company to thrive.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

John Deere
*Led by Mary K. W. Jones, senior vice-president and general counsel*

The John Deere legal team, led by senior vice-president and general counsel Mary K.W. Jones, is widely praised for its work at the cutting edge of US intellectual property law. The team has been involved in a recent high-profile Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) defense of the software embedded in its agricultural equipment and has taken a stance on issues that will increasingly shape product innovation.
Winston & Strawn LLP had an excellent year handling cartel-related matters, representing high-profile clients in some of the major investigations. In an alleged price-fixing case involving several class actions and state attorneys general, as well as several actions by individual plaintiffs, the firm succeeded in securing a number of victories for Panasonic.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is renowned for handling high-profile antitrust litigation and cartel cases, and 2014 was no exception. Recently the firm successfully represented Hewlett-Packard, following its split from Oracle, which the company sued for breach of contract and unfair competition.

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP’s antitrust practice has a special focus on merger clearance. The team acted as counsel to Merck in the proposed $14.2bn sale of its consumer care business to Bayer. Panel wins include Bromwich Group and Polypore International.

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP has often demonstrated that it is a go-to firm for large-scale and novel asset financings. In 2014 it advised Goldman Sachs on the $515m securitization of Castelake Aircraft’s portfolio of 79 aircraft, the first such aircraft asset-backed securitization (ABS) for mid-life and end-of-life aircraft.

Having had some personnel disruption in recent years, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP has made some strong new hires in 2014. In what was an extremely good year, it advised JPMorgan Chase on a €7.6bn financing to D.E Master Blender for its coffee joint venture with Mondelēz International.

Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP’s dominant underwriter-focused high-yield practice increased its already huge market share and acted in transactions that formed part of two high-profile leveraged buyouts; a $2.25bn Rule 144A/Regulation S offering used to finance part of the acquisition of Tim Hortons by Burger King and a $1.04bn Rule 144A/Regulation S offering by Gates Global as part of its $5.4bn acquisition by The Blackstone Group.

Two of the most prominent IPOs during the 2015 research period were Alibaba’s float, and Ally Financial’s $1.6bn private
The placement of common stock as well as its $2.4bn IPO. Sullivan & Cromwell’s team played a key role in both, again proving its impressive capability to handle the most complex transactions.

**CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP*

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP has a well-balanced practice that regularly handles both debtor and creditor work. It was involved in a series of truly historic deals over the past year. It advised the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the landmark enactment of the Puerto Rico Public Corporation Debt Enforcement and Recovery Act. The firm is also advising the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) on its complex restructuring of over $9.5bn of bond and bank debt.

**FINANCIAL SERVICES TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP continues to handle a significant amount of pure advisory work, in addition to regulatory-led transactional work, for its wide array of insurance, private equity and brokerage clients. The firm is gaining particular plaudits for its thought leadership on Volcker rule matters for domestic and foreign banks including Mizuho Bank and Silicon Valley Bank.

**MUNICIPAL BANKRUPTCY TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*Klee, Tuchin, Bogdanoff & Stern LLP*

Klee, Tuchin, Bogdanoff & Stern LLP represented Jefferson County in one of the largest chapter 9 municipal debt restructuring and obtained a ground-breaking issuance of a new revenue. It has also been involved in big chapter 11 cases, acting as a trustee for a well-known brand in the US, recovering valuable trademarks that were fraudulently assigned by the debtors to an off-shore non-debtor entity. Kenneth Klee has a particularly strong reputation here.

**PROJECT FINANCE TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*Norton Rose Fulbright*

Norton Rose Fulbright was elevated in the ranking for its lender side work, as the quality of the work clearly showed that the move was warranted; as well as acting in high-value deals, it demonstrated considerable international strength. The firm’s ‘solid bench’ has ‘strong industry knowledge’, representing ‘great value for money’.

**STRUCTURED FINANCE TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP*

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP has a longstanding reputation across the spectrum of structured finance including securitization (across all asset classes, but particularly CMBS and CLO), structured products and derivatives. The team has helped develop a number of novel products as illustrated by its work for Freddie Mac on its STACR debt program.

**GOVERNMENT TEAM OF THE YEAR**

*Holland & Knight LLP*

Holland & Knight LLP helped establish the Public Access to Sunscreens (PASS) Coalition, which aims at establishing a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) framework for approval of Over-The-Counter sunscreens. This effort to reduce the occurrence of skin cancer and sun-related conditions led to the introduction of new legislation. The matter was named one of ten lobbying victories of the year by The Hill – and the only lobbying victory by a law firm.
ENERGY TEAM OF THE YEAR
Baker Botts LLP
Baker Botts LLP continues to appear as a fixture in the upper tiers of The Legal 500 energy ranking. Oil and gas may be a hallmark of the firm but it is also strong across LNG and power, and within these spaces it handles a diverse range of matters, from IPOs and M&A, to litigation and regulatory work.

ENVIRONMENT TEAM OF THE YEAR
Beveridge & Diamond, PC
2014 saw Beveridge & Diamond, PC acting in some precedent-setting cases regarding biosolids: it gained a favorable decision from the Washington Court of Appeals disallowing a county ban on the application of biosolids to farmland, representing the amicus curiae in support of the Washington State Department of Ecology.

HEALTHCARE: LIFE SCIENCES TEAM OF THE YEAR
Covington & Burling LLP
Covington & Burling LLP’s market-leading FDA regulatory capacity, so ubiquitous it extends to fielding a team in Beijing, combines with exceptional abilities in patent litigation, patent licensing and product liability defense. The firm continued its remarkable string of victories for Roche in the Accutane litigation, and assisted Merck with the $14.2bn sale of its OTC business to Bayer.

HEALTHCARE: SERVICE PROVIDERS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP’s reputation in healthcare innovation and reform is such that its counsel is utilized by a range of sector representative bodies such as American Hospital Association. Having played a leading role in the development of ACOs and health benefit exchanges across the United States, its status as a go-to firm at the nexus of healthcare, technology and IT makes it a natural choice to advise on the current and future impact of the PPACA.

INSURANCE TEAM OF THE YEAR
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has particular non-contentious strengths in property and casualty, life insurance and health insurance. The firm has worked high-value deals, including advising State Farm on the $1.5bn sale of several Canadian businesses and advising Credit Suisse on an $11bn dollar merger between PartnerRe and AXIS Capital Holdings.

SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Arent Fox LLP
Arent Fox LLP’s excellent team has an outstanding reputation acting for clients from an array of sports. It continues to advise longstanding client the Brooklyn Nets, recently assisting with the construction of its training facility, as well as a client list that includes the New York Yankees, USA Cycling, the Cleveland Cavaliers and Los Angeles Kings.

ALTERNATIVE/ HEDGE FUNDS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP has more than 45 years acting for the most prominent alternative investment funds in the hedge fund space. Recently the firm has been very active in the start-up space, and handled the formation of one of the largest start-up hedge funds in 2014, Two Creeks Capital Management, a new long/short equity hedge fund with $1.5bn.
MUTUAL/REGISTERED FUNDS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Ropes & Gray LLP
Ropes & Gray LLP has a wide client base, acting for more than 1400 registered funds, or their directors/trustees. Highlights include the first conversion of an ETF into a traditional mutual fund in the history of the industry, deftly demonstrating its ability to create innovative fund structures.

PRIVATE EQUITY FUNDS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP is a widely recognized player in the market, often present in complex and high-end mandates. Perhaps most noteworthy is the work on the formation of Apollo Investment Fund VIII, which was the largest buyout fund raised since the financial crisis. Marco Masotti commands a formidable reputation in the private equity space, and has rightly been recommended as a leading individual.

IP BOUTIQUE TEAM OF THE YEAR
Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto
Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto is particularly strong on the pharma side. Its successful representation of Gilead, Medtronic & LEO Pharmaceuticals in district court litigations, federal appeals and IPRs serving as illustration of this. The firm has also handled a number of Hatch-Waxman cases and has been extensively involved in overseas trademark portfolio management, brand strategy development and cancellation and opposition proceedings.

IP COPYRIGHT TEAM OF THE YEAR
Jenner & Block LLP
Jenner & Block LLP maintains its leading position in the copyright legal market with outstanding work for content owners, including high-stakes bet-the-company and bet-the-industry litigation. The past year saw the victory before the US Supreme Court for several broadcast television companies, including Fox and PBS, against Aereo, putting an end to its business model of capturing over-the-air television and retransmitting it over the internet.

PATENT LITIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR
Fish & Richardson PC
Fish & Richardson PC is a dominant player for patent litigation as a whole, but it is the firm’s prowess in front of the International Trade Commission (ITC) that has really impressed. Standout cases included its representation of LG Electronics as one of 24 defendants against Technology Properties Limited, and its representation of Samsung in a series of disputes in the district court and the ITC.

PATENTS: NON-CONTENTIOUS TEAM OF THE YEAR
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
McDermott Will & Emery LLP has attracted considerable attention in the market for its representation of Blackberry, Panasonic and Halliburton Energy in IPR proceedings. The firm’s track record in the prosecution sphere included advising Samsung Medison on ultrasound diagnostic devices, and assisting Samsung Electronics on its LED technology prosecution cases.

TRADEMARKS LITIGATION
Kelly IP
Since its founding in 2013, Kelly IP has consistently snapped at the heels of the traditional IP elite in Washington DC to prove that size is not what matters to clients, but instead a dedication to clients and a collaborative approach to its client work.
David Kelly himself has led from the front to create a firm that in a short space of time has been able to attract a high calibre of clients including Disney, Yahoo, Fox and Harley Davidson.

**TRADEMARKS: NON-CONTENTIOUS TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**Kenyon & Kenyon LLP**

When it comes to major rebranding work, including the more complex area of emergency rebranding, Kenyon & Kenyon LLP appears to be a popular choice, with Abbott Laboratories, AIG, Citigroup and GMAC, among others, all using the firm's services.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**Miller & Chevalier Chartered**

Miller & Chevalier Chartered's ability to operate at federal level, often for high-level clients, led to this award. Some 30 new client wins, a partner promotion, and ability to generate business across practice areas were other contributing factors.

**IMMIGRATION TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo**

Last year's winner continues to enjoy an excellent reputation for its immigration work and its practice head is a doyenne of the immigration bar. It remains a thought leader in immigration and is leading the way through its innovative approach to immigration, which includes hosting a global enrollment program at the firm's office.

**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT: BOUTIQUE TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**Jackson Lewis LLP**

It may not have a full-service offering, but Jackson Lewis LLP, and the cases it handles, are anything but small. It has recently been defending Murphy Oil Corporation in its closely watched unfair dismissal case. The firm is repeatedly hailed for having the 'strong client relationship focus' that one would expect of a boutique.

**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT: LITIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**Jones Day**

Jones Day has an impressive practice strength across the whole of the US. What particularly sets it apart is the range of work handled, from large wage and hour class actions to truly stellar work before the US Supreme Court, such as the recent *Sandifer et al v United States Steel Corporation*. The firm was repeatedly described as 'outstanding' by clients.

**COMMERCIAL LITIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP is widely regarded as one of the top litigation shops in the country. This is firm that has excellent trial experience and is ready to take an aggressive stance for either plaintiff or defendant from a range of industries.
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP
One of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP’s biggest successes was advising BG Group on the first-ever investment treaty arbitration case to be addressed in the US Supreme Court, which reinstated a $185m award in favor of the company in its long-running dispute with Argentina.

LEADING TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR
Abbe Lowell of Chadbourne Park LLP
Abbe Lowell is particularly noted for representing high-profile political figures such as John Edwards, and over the years has racked up an impressive 98% victory rate in criminal, civil and administrative cases, across courts in over 12 different states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

MASS TORT AND CLASS ACTION: PLAINUITT SIDE TEAM OF THE YEAR
Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh & Jardine
Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh & Jardine is a leader for pharmaceutical and medical devices work. Established trial lawyer Michael Burg is a key name in the team and was instrumental in the Yaz / Yasmin litigation. The firm was recently instructed to advise in the Testosterone Replacement Therapy litigation.

PRODUCT LIABILITY DEFENSE TEAM OF THE YEAR
Arnold & Porter
Their hire of Thad Dameris gives the firm a strong Houston presence and a credible aviation tort practice. Arnold & Porter are a top tier consumer products firm with strength in products and tobacco litigation. In addition, they were promoted in the pharma section as a result of some good trial wins and continued advice on some of the largest toxic tort matters.

SECURITIES: SHAREHOLDER LITIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR
Shearman & Sterling LLP
The firm is resurgent having hired seven partners to a team that is at the epicentre of remaining litigation relating to mortgage-backed securities and the emerging class of matters related to alleged manipulation of financial benchmarks such as Libor. The firm is returning to its former glory in securities litigation after restructuring.

SUPREME COURT AND APPELLATE TEAM OF THE YEAR
King & Spalding LLP
King & Spalding LLP has superb momentum both in the Supreme Court - where Ashley Parrish recently won a victory on behalf of Carol Ann Bond in Bond v United States - and in the Federal Circuit where Darly Joseffer is a notable star.

TRADE SECRETS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Keker & Van Nest, LLP
One of the best known names in this area, the firm has had yet another impressive run. A significant victory was obtained for Netflix in Jerry Kowal v Netflix and Amazon a high-profile defamation and blacklisting lawsuit before the Los Angeles County Superior Court; all the plaintiff’s claims were dismissed five and a half months after the complaint was filed.

WHITE-COLLAR DEFENSE TEAM OF THE YEAR
Lankler Siffert & Wohl LLP
From its New York base the team continues to see involvement in all the headline grabbing financial white-collar trials, and in securing the acquittal of Rengan Rajaratnam, the firm imposed on federal prosecutors the first defeat in their half-decade-long crackdown on insider trading, reversing a trend of 81 convictions.
M&A LARGE DEALS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
Weil, Gotshal & Manges has combined a powerful East coast M&A practice with a standout record on the West coast. The Silicon Valley team has worked on a series of headline transactions including advising Facebook on its $16bn acquisition of WhatsApp and Apple on its $3bn purchase of Beats Electronics.

M&A LITIGATION DEFENSE TEAM OF THE YEAR
Morris, Nichols, Arsh & Tunnell LLP
Morris, Nichols, Arsh & Tunnell LLP has argued landmark cases that have established the principles of Delaware corporate law and defined the fiduciary duties governing many US corporations’ boards of directors. It acted for Audax Health Solutions in claims concerning its sale to United Health.

M&A LITIGATION PLAINTIFF TEAM OF THE YEAR
Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP
Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP enjoys a first-class reputation for its representation of shareholders in corporate takeover litigation. It continues to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in additional consideration for shareholders, as well as hugely beneficial changes for shareholders in M&A deals.

M&A MID-MARKET TEAM OF THE YEAR
Fenwick & West LLP
Despite focusing on the technology sector, Fenwick & West LLP comfortably competes in the M&A space with firms across the whole spectrum. The firm continues to attract the most prestigious clients from the industry, such as Facebook which it advised on its serial acquisition program. It acted in many of the high-profile technology deals of 2014, advising Skybox Imaging on its sale to Google, and Bizo on its sale to LinkedIn, to give just two examples.

PRIVATE EQUITY BUYOUTS TEAM OF THE YEAR
Paul Hastings LLP
Paul Hastings LLP’s private equity practice now has significant geographic reach. While it has long been a standout player in Los Angeles and Orange County, recent years have seen it become a credible player in Chicago and Houston too. Its presence across these locations has enabled it to build specialist expertise across various industries.

VENTURE CAPITAL AND EMERGING COMPANIES TEAM OF THE YEAR
Cooley LLP
Cooley’s remains one of the biggest players in Silicon Valley, but has grown an outstanding network of offices in most of the key emerging company centres such as New York, San Diego, Boston, Seattle and Colorado. It continued to lead the way in emerging company IPOs in 2014, including TriNet’s $276m New York listing.

CYBER CRIME TEAM OF THE YEAR
Morrison and Foerster
Miriam Wugmeister is a hugely enthusiastic individual who clearly loves what she does. Her team has a highly reputable client base which includes eBay, Wyndham Worldwide, CVS, Adobe Systems and Bed Bath & Beyond. The team provided lead counsel for Target when it experienced one of the largest data security breaches of all time.

DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY TEAM OF THE YEAR
Reed Smith
Reed Smith established a new practice group as of January 2015; Intellectual Property,
Information and Innovation, in which the privacy and data security team carry out its work among 100 lawyers worldwide. Hires throughout the year include 2 FCRA experts, a big data and payments analyst and a Mayer Brown lawyer who is now co-leader of the Electronic Discovery & Information Governance Practice.

MTT OUTSOURCING TEAM OF THE YEAR

K&L Gates
The K&L Gates team has extensive experience representing both sides of an outsourcing transaction. It engaged in complex work for ISG and its outsourcing clients, one of the most prominent global outsourcing advisory firms, which included streamlining outsourcing transaction documents and processes and restructuring intellectual property.

MTT REGULATORY TEAM OF THE YEAR

Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP has been at the forefront of Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) litigation, particularly since the regulation was amended in 2013. It has acted for the likes of Burger King and Honeywell International in cases involving individuals allegedly receiving calls or text messages without the necessary consent.

MTT TRANSACTIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

Latham & Watkins
Latham & Watkins’ success continues partly due to its work on one of the most important and discussed mergers in the past year (Time Warner - Comcast), but also due to the strength in depth the team has added across the practice, and the vital intersection of transactional, FCC and antitrust advice.

CONSTRUCTION TEAM OF THE YEAR

Seyfarth Shaw
Clients have commented that the scope and amount of construction and litigious work the firm took on in 2014 ranks among the best in the US. Seyfarth Shaw had an extraordinarily good year, working on many cross-border and high-profile megaprojects.

LAND USE/ZONING TEAM OF THE YEAR

DLA Piper
In a practice area that only a few firms cover on a nationwide basis, DLA Piper’s expertise on land use matters is recognized across the United States. The breadth of its advice as well as its nationwide footprint resulted in another successful and busy year for the highly-regarded practice.

REAL ESTATE TEAM OF THE YEAR

Dechert LLP
Dechert LLP’s lending practice and depth of financial expertise is applauded by its high profile client-base that includes Apollo, Bank of America, Barclays Capital, Prudential, Starwood and Wells Fargo. Its ability to adapt to client needs and personable approach is universally praised.

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS) TEAM OF THE YEAR

Sullivan & Worcester
The firm’s reputation is certainly growing and is recognized by peers as a strong contender. 2014 saw the team advise on several highprofile matters; the particularly strong tax capabilities were demonstrated while acting as tax counsel for American Tower Corporation in a $525m public offering of shares of its MandatoryConvertible Preferred Stock.
**TAX: DOMESTIC TEAM OF THE YEAR**  
*Andrews Kurth LLP*

As one of the major players in the oil and gas industry, Andrews Kurth LLP has recently been involved in a number of notable transactions within the sector. It has demonstrated an ability to act on all sides of such transactions, with recent instructions coming from Post Oak Energy Capital on its $300m equity commitment to Oryx Midstream Services.

**TAX: INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR**  
*Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered*

Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered has been extremely active in the international arena, truly cementing its position as one of the leading forces in the market. The firm’s client list of international corporations is impressive, with Horst Frisch Incorporated and AIG just two of the names that feature.

**TAX: CONTROVERSY TEAM OF THE YEAR**  
*Mayer Brown*

2014 saw yet another impressive run of work by Mayer Brown. The firm is regularly seen in the most high-profile controversy cases before the US Tax Court. Demonstrating its flair for transfer pricing cases, it has been acting for Eaton Corporation in litigation challenging tax deficiencies for 2005/06 claimed by the IRS relating to its transfer pricing products manufactured in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republican, and sold to its US subsidiaries.