

MVP: Gibson Dunn's Jane M. Love, Ph.D.

By Adam Lidgett

Law360 (September 20, 2021, 4:28 PM EDT) -- Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP partner Jane Love, Ph.D., helped Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. beat a challenge to its blockbuster multiple sclerosis drug Gilenya in a Delaware federal court case, earning her a spot among Law360's 2021 Life Sciences MVPs.

HER BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE YEAR:

Love led Novartis to victory in August 2020, when Third Circuit Judge Kent A. Jordan found that a Novartis patent in litigation over Gilenya was valid.

Not only that, the judge held that a planned generic by HEC Pharm infringed.

Love said they had been before U.S. District Judge Leonard P. Stark for the better part of a couple years, but they eventually had to switch gears before a new judge, Judge Jordan, who was sitting by designation.

She said having a new audience in that case made it challenging, especially since the technology at issue is complicated.

"Both parties had to readjust to present the case to a new audience," she said.

ONE OF HER BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN THE PAST YEAR:

The COVID-19 pandemic constantly changed the parameters of how to practice law, Love said.

For example, she said she argued a motion to dismiss before Judge Stark in another case a couple of months ago, and it was generally a challenge trying to understand the level of engagement and understanding without being able to see faces.

"It's definitely been an adjustment to be arguing remotely with judges just by telephone, for example, without any of the in-person physical body language one has when you're litigating," Love said.



WHY SHE'S A LIFE SCIENCES ATTORNEY:

Having a Ph.D. in molecular biology as well as a law degree, Love said she has always been interested in the life sciences arena.

She said that the cases themselves are enjoyable, and that she enjoys looking at the story of a problem that an inventor was trying to solve. She likes finding that narrative to develop and litigate cases, she said.

"It's inspiring and very positive," Love said.

WHAT MOTIVATES HER:

Love said that litigation is really a group activity, more akin to a team sport rather than an individual venture.

"It's motivating to be working with other lawyers, whether at Gibson Dunn or [with] other clients, to take these problems and solve them," she said.

— As told to Adam Lidgett. Editing by Ellen Johnson.

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 2021 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.