

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

An **ALM** Publication

NLJ.COM | November/December 2021

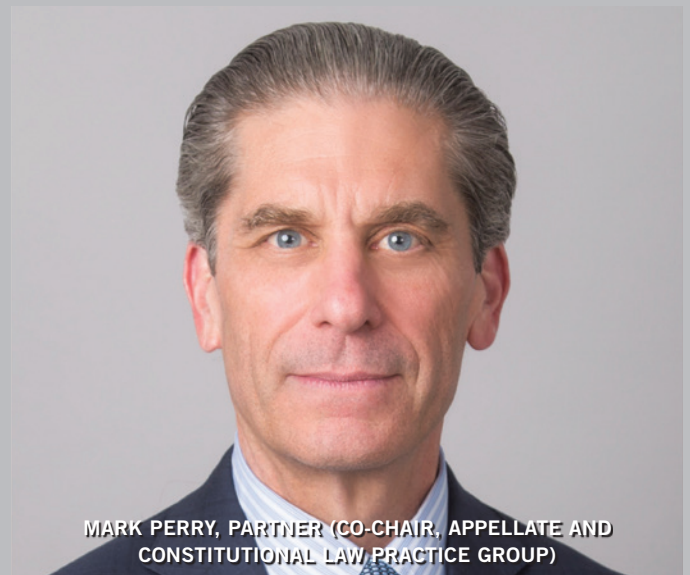
2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

APPELLATE HOT LIST

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

■ **Tell us about your top U.S. Supreme Court or federal appeals court victory over the past year and how you and your team achieved the win.** If you might fall, make sure you don't break anything on the way down. We brought that philosophy to bear in *United States v. Arthrex*, a challenge to the system of administrative patent review. Recognizing that the Supreme Court might find a constitutional defect in the appointment of administrative patent judges (as it did, by a 5-4 vote), we argued that the solution was not to bring down the entire system, as our opponents and many amici argued, but rather to tailor the remedy to the specific problem identified. By a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court agreed—and the system continues to function as intended.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** When our clients entrust us with their most difficult problems, we are able to draw on the unparalleled breadth and depth of experience, creativity and insight among the members of our Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group.



MARK PERRY, PARTNER (CO-CHAIR, APPELLATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW PRACTICE GROUP)

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** Achieving the client's objectives (aka "winning") is the most satisfying element of any litigation practice, and appellate law is no different. It is particularly rewarding when appellate courts adopt our arguments in precedential opinions that will guide future litigation.

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Take responsibility for your own actions and decisions—even if they turn out to be wrong. But try to make sure they are right! ■