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2022 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.** Never, never, never give up! After 20

years of litigation in the court of appeals, we persuaded the U.S. Supreme Court to grant our petition and allow the federal communications commission to eliminate long-outdated media ownership restrictions. The Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *National Association of Broadcasters v. Prometheus Radio Project* is a path-marking victory for the nation's broadcast and newspaper industries, paving the way for efficient consolidation in those sectors. In bringing home the win, our team—captained by force-of-nature Helgi Walker—played the long game with a deep bench of heavy-hitters seamlessly integrating appellate, administrative law, and industry expertise.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** When our clients entrust us with their most significant, complex matters, we work relentlessly as a team to achieve our clients' goals—drawing on the tremendous experience, creativity, and insight of our appellate group.



Allyson Ho, Partner and Co-Chair of the Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** The genius of appellate advocacy is taking something really complicated and making it simple and compelling—like crafting the first sentence of a brief or oral argument so that every word pushes toward the client's victory.

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** You can be a fierce advocate without becoming an unpleasant person. Kindness and humility are the hallmarks of confidence and strength, not weakness. ■