

## THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL



### APPELLATE HOT LIST

#### Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP



Julian W. Poon, Partner and Co-Chair of the Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group

- **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.**

The unanimous U.S. Supreme Court victory we won in *Slack v. Pirani*, a landmark securities case, was our crowning achievement in a stellar year for us. We persuaded the Court to overturn the Ninth Circuit's sweeping expansion of the Securi-

ties Act of 1933's draconian liability provisions. We persuaded the Court to grant review and reverse by highlighting the dire consequences of the Ninth Circuit's approach for capital markets and investors and, through exhaustive research,

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refuting the Ninth Circuit's historically unsupported interpretation of the statute. Tom Hungar argued the case and led our integrated team of appellate and securities specialists.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** We work seamlessly with our clients, trial teams (external and internal), and subject-matter/industry experts to rigorously analyze, formulate, and fine-tune our winning arguments on appeal. That's a key component of how we achieve the best possible results for our clients.

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** What's most satisfying is the process of closely parsing legal texts and precedents, pressure-testing arguments against first principles and common sense, and boiling complicated fact patterns down to their legal core, in order to create concise, compelling, thematic arguments.

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Do everything you can to learn from the past and from others, and to keep honing your written and oral advocacy skills. Any brief or argument can always be improved! ■