

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL



LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: General Litigation Finalist Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP



Helgi Walker, Partner and Co-Chair of the Global Litigation Practice Group

▪ **Describe your firm's approach to litigation and your strategy for building successful teams for trials or other matters.** At any level of litigation, from trial all the way to SCOTUS, our strategy is driven by the objective of helping our clients solve their problems effectively and efficiently. By focusing on bolstering the capabilities and expertise of our already world-class litigation

practice, we're able to match the right skills and industry know-how to the most complex matters.

▪ **Discuss the two biggest litigation cases your firm worked on in 2022 and how you reached**

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successful outcomes. Our SCOTUS victory for Slack in the direct listings case was significant. By convincing the SCOTUS to reject plaintiff's attempt to abandon the tracing requirement of Section 11 of the Securities Act, we were able to fend off what was poised to be a significant threat to the capital-formation process. We also obtained a major victory in the Ninth Circuit on behalf of United Behavioral Health in an ERISA health benefits class action. In winning the appeal, the firm dramatically reversed the momentum in eight years of litigation in which UBH (represented by a different firm) had lost class certification,

summary judgment, trial/liability, a remedies phase, a \$20 million fees and costs award for plaintiffs, and numerous other rulings.

■ **What are the most challenging and satisfying aspects of your work in litigation?** I love the camaraderie on our teams. We pull together in challenging situations to accomplish big goals and that builds our team spirit even more.

■ **What is the most important piece of advice you'd share with young lawyers?** Do the very best you can at the task that is before you—do that again and again, and the rest will take care of itself. ■