

Appellate Group Of The Year: Gibson Dunn

By **Max Kutner**

Law360 (March 3, 2026, 4:00 PM EST) -- Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP secured significant appellate rulings in its favor last year, including in U.S. Supreme Court cases dealing with the deadline to petition for judicial review of a removal order and whether a trademark plaintiff can recover profits from entities other than named defendants, earning the firm a spot among the 2025 Law360 Appellate Groups of the Year.

The management-side firm has more than two dozen appellate partners and more than 80 attorneys primarily doing appellate work across at least seven offices and spanning a variety of subject areas. That nationwide reach enabled Gibson Dunn to argue in all 13 federal circuits and more than a dozen state Supreme Courts in the past year, according to the firm.

"There are many prestigious appellate shops in the United States," said Thomas Dupree Jr., co-partner in charge of the firm's Washington, D.C., office and co-chair of the firm's appellate and constitutional law practice group. "But I don't think anyone can hold a candle to us when it comes to a truly nationwide reach."

Whereas some firms have a small number of attorneys handling important appellate arguments, Gibson Dunn has many standing at the podium, the practice group's leaders said.

"We are the appellate equivalent of the 1927 New York Yankees," Dupree said.

Gibson Dunn secured a favorable ruling last June in *Riley v. Bondi*. The U.S. Supreme Court adopted part of the firm's argument in ruling that a 30-day deadline to petition for judicial review of a removal order starts when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issues a final administrative removal order, not when Board of Immigration Appeals proceedings finish.

The case dealt with a procedural rule under the Immigration and Nationality Act. It involved a Jamaican national who was challenging a removal order and a Fourth Circuit decision that the case was not timely.

"We have a long legacy of presence and success at the U.S. Supreme Court, and I think our expertise and experience there continues to be in high demand [even] as the docket continues to shrink," said Allyson Ho, also an appellate and constitutional law practice group co-chair.



In another recent high court case, *Dewberry Group Inc. v. Dewberry Engineers Inc.*, the justices in February 2025 unanimously agreed with Gibson Dunn that a trademark plaintiff cannot recover profits from entities other than the named defendants. The case centered on the Lanham Act, the federal statute governing trademark law.

"It really underscores the importance of the concept of corporate separateness, which of course is a foundational principle of American corporate law that enables companies to structure their affairs in ways that enable them to predict risk, predict potential liability," Dupree said.

"When you have a universe, as you did before the Dewberry decision, that allowed at least some courts to really go after the profits of corporate affiliates or even unaffiliated entities and force them to disgorge their profits, that was a recipe for uncertainty and for chaos and confusion," he added.

In another favorable ruling, a Ninth Circuit panel in February 2025 found in *Pirani v. Slack Technologies Inc.* that Section 12 of the Securities Act of 1933 has a tracing requirement like the one under Section 11 of the act.

The case was on remand from the U.S. Supreme Court, where Gibson Dunn had secured a win in 2023 regarding Section 11.

"This is another hugely consequential decision in the securities law context," said Julian Poon, also co-chair of the appellate and constitutional law practice group.

"It makes it much more difficult for securities plaintiffs to sue under the Securities Act," he said. "It's tightening the limitations on when securities plaintiffs can sue or not, and imposing this tracing requirement ... makes it harder to sue."

Looking to the future, the practice group leaders noted that the firm's latest hires include six recent U.S. Supreme Court clerks.

Ho said, "We're excited about the next generation of Gibson Dunn appellate rock stars who are continuing the legacy of excellence here."

--Additional reporting by Britain Eakin. Editing by Linda Voorhis.