

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **HOT LIST** | A SPECIAL REPORT

We recognize 15 law firms that set the bar in intellectual property law in 2015, scoring big wins for clients. They range from major firms with 1,000 or more lawyers to smaller shops with an IP focus. This year's group includes firms that went before the U.S. Supreme Court—and won—in key trademark and patent cases that impacted industries including technology and banking. Others took home big wins in matters involving music, sports and, yes, Spider-Man. These are their superhero stories.



JOSH KREVITT

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

How does a defense lawyer win a case when the plaintiff has already prevailed against two defendants on similar sets of facts?

In 2015, Gibson Dunn partner Josh Krevitt found out, scoring a jury verdict victory over Prism Technologies LLC on behalf of T-Mobile USA Inc. in the U.S. District Court for Nebraska.

The case involved Prism's claim that T-Mobile's technology networks infringed on two Prism patents. Before the T-Mobile case went to trial in October, Prism had negotiated a roughly \$30 million settlement with AT&T Inc. and had won an \$30 million verdict against Sprint Corp. According to Krevitt, Prism's expert set damages at more than \$100 million against T-Mobile. The AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile

cases were all tried before U.S. District Judge Lyle Strom in Omaha.

In the T-Mobile trial, Strom allowed Prism's lawyers to inform the jury about Prism's prior victories against AT&T and Sprint though Krevitt had argued that letting in evidence about Prism's earlier victories would be prejudicial and not relevant to the T-Mobile case.

Nevertheless, on Oct. 30, after a three-week trial, Gibson Dunn's trial team convinced the jury that T-Mobile's systems did not infringe on Prism's patents.

"We approached the case differently in substance and presentation," Krevitt said. "We decided to litigate by taking on the complicated issues, and to prove we were right, we needed to trust that we could explain to the jury how the systems actually worked. We litigated the case on the guts of T-Mobile's systems. There was a risk that we'd lose the jury, but we focused on the substance and the jury got it."

Melissa Scanlan, senior director of litigation and antitrust at T-Mobile, said Krevitt "is one of those rare trial lawyers who is able to do all of the important work at an extremely high level skill and with a sense of ease that comes from deep experience."

—RICHARD ACELLO

FIRM FACTS:

- **Year founded:** 1890
- **Headquarters:** Los Angeles
- **Total attorneys:** 1,251
- **IP partners:** 45
- **IP associates:** 95