

Rising Star: Gibson Dunn's Timothy Loose

Law360, New York (August 2, 2017, 2:03 PM EDT) – Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Timothy Loose has racked up wins defending companies across a wide range of class action cases, including a victory in a case over boat motors made by Yamaha Motor Corp. that was recently upheld in a precedential Ninth Circuit decision, earning him a spot as one of the four class action attorneys under 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

HOW HE BECAME A CLASS ACTION ATTORNEY:

Loose first took an interest in class action law while clerking for Judge Ronald S.W. Lew in California federal court.

“We had quite a few cases that were class action cases [while I was a clerk], and they were always fascinating, both for the policy implications and the variety — the variety of theories, the variety of types of clients. They were always the most exciting cases. So when I started at Gibson Dunn, I gravitated toward that right away.”

THE BIGGEST CASE OF HIS CAREER:

From a car-hacking suit for Toyota to a labeling suit for Pepsi, Loose has worked on many high-profile cases, but he says he considers Williams, et al. v. Yamaha Motor Co. USA, which involved claims that a Yamaha boat motor was prone to corrosion, to be the biggest case of his career so far.

“It was exciting because we were there from start to finish,” Loose said. “There was quite a bit of press, so we started out with a media strategy as well as a litigation strategy, and we were able to get all the cases transferred to the central district of California, which is where Yamaha’s corporate headquarters is located. It was really gratifying when, after a series of motions, the judge came back and dismissed all the claims.”

RISING ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ STAR



Timothy Loose
Gibson Dunn

Age: 36

Home base: Los Angeles

Position: Partner

Law school: UCLA School of Law

First job after law school:

Clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

The case was held up on appeal before the Ninth Circuit, which Loose said was “great” to see.

“It was a precedential decision so our work on that case can serve as a guide,” he added.

BIGGEST SETBACK AS AN ATTORNEY:

Loose says his biggest setback came while working on the case brought by the California Department of Insurance commissioner against Gibson Dunn client Artemis, when an appellate court decision unravelled a favorable outcome and sent the case back to the lower court.

“That was a long running case in which we had a trial and we won on a key damages issue. That verdict was then overturned on appeal,” Loose said. “It was such a challenge to then go back and rally the team, rally the client to have to go back and try the case again.”

Artemis later prevailed again at trial.

“In the end, I think I was grateful — it really underscored the strength of our team,” Loose said. “To get that verdict again, it was exhilarating.”

ADVICE TO YOUNG LAWYERS:

Loose says he learned a lot of valuable lessons as a clerk and starting out at Gibson Dunn, but that one lesson stands out: “Put yourself in someone else’s shoes.”

“I think so much of what a lawyer does is adopt someone else’s perspective. If your audience is a judge, put yourself in the judge’s shoes. If it’s a client, try to see things like your client. For a lot of young lawyers it’s difficult to do that. I don’t know if they just don’t have the practice yet or what, but it’s important to learn how to do it.”

HIS MOTIVATION:

Loose says that the complicated and challenging nature of his practice keeps him engaged — as does the chance to help his clients.

“The ability to be a game changer for a client really helps keep me motivated,” Loose said. “To find a path through for a case, that’s challenging, and it’s interesting. The feeling you get from unravelling the knot, it’s exhilarating. It keeps me coming back.”

— *As told to Emma Cueto*

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2017 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.

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