

## MVP: Latham & Watkins' Alice Fisher

By Kevin Penton

*Law360 (October 28, 2020, 5:46 PM EDT)* -- Alice Fisher of Latham & Watkins LLP secured a \$3.5 million settlement for Pacira Pharmaceuticals on claims that the company had engaged in civil and criminal violations related to its Exparel pain management drug, earning her a spot as one of Law360's 2020 White Collar MVPs.

### **HER BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT THIS YEAR:**

The U.S. Department of Justice spent approximately five years investigating whether Pacira had violated the False Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Statute and had engaged in misbranding and other civil and criminal violations with Exparel, a non-opioid analgesic that is used to manage pain after surgery.

Fisher led the legal team that secured a settlement for the New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company. Pacira acknowledged no wrongdoing as part of the settlement, it announced in July.

"We are pleased to turn the page and put this multi-year investigation behind us," said Kristen Williams, Pacira's chief administrative officer and corporate secretary, in a statement in July.

### **WHAT MOTIVATES HER:**

Fisher previously served as assistant attorney general in charge of the DOJ's criminal division from 2005 to 2008, was managing partner of Latham's Washington, D.C., office for approximately five years, and interviewed in 2017 to serve as FBI director following James Comey's termination.

Fisher said she had strong support from her family, enjoyed focusing her career on white collar matters and loved to work for Latham. But her greatest motivation is using her experience to help the firm grow the practice, she said.

"What pushes me the most is being able to provide opportunities and to help young lawyers," Fisher said. "That is what truly motivates me the most: my desire to grow the practice."



**WHY SHE'S A WHITE COLLAR ATTORNEY:**

Whether her clients are facing an investigation or are already dealing with charges or claims filed against them in court, Fisher loves to help companies and individuals understand what they're up against and strategize a way to obtain a right and fair outcome, she said.

She said she was drawn to the area of the law because of its fact finding and investigatory nature, and enjoys counseling her clients and developing a strategy, Fisher said.

"I find it to be an important area of the law with regard to justice and fairness," Fisher said.

**HER BIGGEST CHALLENGE:**

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic forced Latham to work remotely this year, Fisher misses the human interactions she experienced daily, whether it was running into someone in the hallway and having an impromptu conversation with them, collaborating on ideas without having to schedule a virtual meeting, or being able to mentor less experienced attorneys.

"I'm a people person, I love the team, so not being able to connect with my colleagues on a day-to-day basis ... I really miss that," Fisher said.

She also misses interacting with clients in person, believing that being face-to-face with someone when they are going through a crisis can make a significant difference.

"Not being able to have that interaction is something that I really miss and is a challenge," Fisher said.

— *As told to Kevin Penton*

*Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2020 MVP winners after reviewing more than 900 submissions.*