

## The Firms That Dominated In 2021

By Jack Karp

*Law360 (January 17, 2022, 9:02 PM EST)* -- Nine law firms have earned spots as Law360's Firms of the Year, with 52 Practice Group of the Year awards among them, having steered complex deals and won high-profile victories including at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP landed on top with eight wins, while Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP came in second with seven. Latham & Watkins LLP and Sullivan & Cromwell LLP shared the third spot, with six wins each. And Covington & Burling LLP, Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP and Williams & Connolly LLP rounded out the list with five wins each.

### Latham & Watkins

Latham's capital markets practice helped Airbnb close its \$3.5 billion IPO in December 2020, the second-largest IPO of that year for an operating company.

The team also represented eyewear company Warby Parker in its September New York Stock Exchange debut, which the firm called the first direct listing of a public benefit corporation.

And the firm's cross-border capital markets team advised on Korean e-commerce giant Coupang Inc.'s \$4.6 billion IPO and represented Swedish-based Oatly in its \$1.4 billion May offering.

"2021 was a banner year for the equity capital markets and also a record-breaking year for our broader capital markets practice," Ian D. Schuman, global chair of Latham's capital markets practice, told Law360. "Working together, our global team continued to partner with clients across all sectors of the economy on their most complicated transactions."

The firm's M&A team also helmed major deals, including semiconductor company AMD's \$35 billion acquisition of Xilinx and the sale of Slack Technologies to Salesforce.com Inc. for roughly \$27.7 billion.

The group also advised Cerner on its \$28.3 billion acquisition by



Oracle, Intuit on its \$12 billion acquisition of Mailchimp and the special committee of Athene Holdings' board in Athene's \$29 billion merger with Apollo, according to Charles K. Ruck, global chair of the firm's corporate department.

"Exemplifying the significance of the deals on which we advise, those four transactions were the largest ever mergers and acquisitions in Oracle, Salesforce, Intuit and Athene history," Ruck said.

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