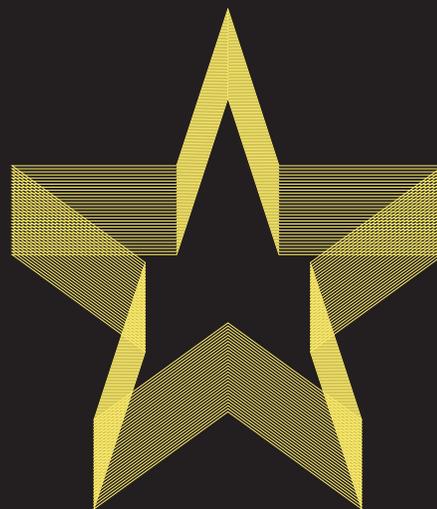


D.C.'S RISING STARS

Washington, D.C., is a magnet for the top graduates from the top law schools in some of the most sophisticated practices in the nation, including appellate and antitrust. So for the NLJ's 2017 Rising Stars list, how did we go about reviewing a large pool of smart, young nominees? Very carefully. We looked for key elements including success on the highest stages, diversity of practice groups and law firms. We also looked closely at recommendations. We are proud to present our 2017 Rising Stars. This year, we share their keys to success in their own words, edited for clarity and length. —Lisa Helem, managing editor

A SPECIAL REPORT



ADAM UNIKOWSKY, 36

FIRM: JENNER & BLOCK

PRACTICE: APPELLATE AND SUPREME COURT

TITLE: PARTNER

■ **WHAT WAS THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF PRACTICE?** It is critically important to retain credibility with the court—all citations to case law and to the record must be accurate, or the court won't believe anything you say.

■ **DESCRIBE YOUR BIGGEST WIN OR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN PRACTICE.** I've won five SCOTUS cases (as lead counsel) over the past two terms: *Puerto Rico v. Sanchez Valle*, *V.L. v. E.L.*, *Howell v. Howell*, *Honeycutt v. United States* [and] *Kokesh v. SEC*.

■ **WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR GREATEST LAWYER MENTOR?** I clerked for two fantastic judges, Justice Antonin Scalia and Judge Douglas Ginsburg [of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit], whose influence on me and my career has been inestimable.

■ **PLEASE SHARE A KEY TO YOUR SUCCESS.** Learn about many areas of the law—you never know when your knowledge will come in handy. And get as many opportunities as you can to get up in court. Writing briefs is important and rewarding, but there's nothing quite like the feeling of making your case to the judge or the jury.