

Rising Star: Jenner & Block's Luke Platzer

Law360 (August 21, 2018, 2:25 PM EDT) -- Jenner & Block LLP partner Luke Platzer has worked on litigation with a national impact in telecommunications and in civil rights, including recently representing Charter Advanced Services in a suit over internet phone services, earning him a spot as one of three telecommunications attorneys under 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

THE BIGGEST DEAL OF HIS CAREER:

Platzer said the merger between Charter Communications Inc. and Time Warner Cable Inc. — combined with Charter's acquisition of Bright House Networks — in 2016 was particularly challenging due to the number of different regulatory agencies involved and the issues being investigated by both federal and state governments.

In addition to the three parties involved in the transactions, he said there was a “vast number” of other parties looking to intervene or otherwise get involved in the deals.

Platzer also represented Charter in Charter Advanced Services v. Lange in Minnesota federal court. In May 2017, the district judge held in favor of Charter, ruling that Voice over Internet Protocol services should be classified as an information service exempt from state regulation. The case is currently under appeal in the Eighth Circuit.

HIS PROUDEST MOMENT:

Looking back on his career so far, Platzer said his proudest moment was a pro bono case, where he was one of the counsel litigating Gill

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Luke Platzer
Jenner & Block

Age: 39

Home base: Washington, D.C.

Position: Partner

Law school: Stanford Law School

First job after law school: Clerk for Judge Judith W. Rogers of the D.C. Circuit

v. Office of Personnel Management in 2012, which challenged the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act in the First Circuit.

“The days that we both won that case at the district court level and the circuit court level, and had the first decision striking down DOMA as unconstitutional, still hold a very special place in my heart,” he said.

Before moving to Jenner & Block, he'd worked the nonprofit sector as a volunteer and law fellow. He said it's important to him to be able to maintain a pro bono practice and be involved in civil rights cases while also maintaining a private practice.

HOW HE GOT INTO TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

Platzer said he has a lot of background knowledge of copyright and intellectual property law and how it interacts with digital space and new media. He said those concepts and internet regulations and policy issues tend to overlap in a lot of ways.

“I've always been something of a geek when it comes to technology and internet issues, and how changing technology is modifying or being accommodated by legal paradigms,” he said. “Early on in my legal career, I found that it was an area of law in which a lot of exciting things were happening that dovetailed with my interests outside of the law.”

ON THE FUTURE OF THE PRACTICE:

Platzer sees a lot of change coming in telecommunications, as newer technologies move in and threaten to supplant the old.

“As video increasingly moves online and converges with broadband service, we're probably going to see a lot of questions arising about where the line is between online video and traditional cable service,” he said, adding that the laws and regulations for cable and broadband will start to intersect.

He said he also foresees states stepping up in response to the FCC, such as how it has moved to roll back Obama-era internet regulations. State regulators are already making moves, and he said he expects more action to happen on that front in the near future.

— *As told to Mike Curley*

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of

Law360 editors selected the 2018 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.

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