

A SPECIAL REPORT

APPELLATE HOT LIST

The appellate luminaries featured in our 2019 special report won key matters before the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeal, staying true to their practice philosophies along the way. Here, they recount how they tackled appeals involving everything from racial gerrymandering to RICO. For more on their stories, read on. —*Lisa Helem*

JENNER & BLOCK

Ishan Bhabha discusses the firm's top U.S. Court of Appeals win.

■ **TELL US ABOUT YOUR TOP U.S. SUPREME COURT OR FEDERAL APPEALS COURT VICTORY OVER THE PAST YEAR AND HOW YOU AND YOUR TEAM ACHIEVED THE WIN.** We won an important Seventh Circuit victory for FanDuel, in which the court ruled that fantasy sports operators do not violate individual athletes' "right of publicity" when they use athletes' names and statistics in fantasy sports games. This ruling vindicated critical First Amendment principles in the age of the internet and was important for a host of industries including media, entertainment and gaming. Our diverse team collaborated closely on this matter, and we achieved this win because of the outstanding and equal contributions of each team member, from the most junior associate to the senior partner.

■ **HOW DID YOUR FIRM APPROACH APPELLATE SUCCESS OVER THE PAST YEAR?** We approach our cases with the rigor and creativity that comes from hav-

ing diverse and collaborative case teams. In writing and arguing, we craft narratives that make clear why our arguments are not only legally correct, but also fair and just.

■ **WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ELEMENT OF APPELLATE PRACTICE IN YOUR OPINION?** There is no greater thrill than standing up during oral argument and being forced to defend and explain your ideas. I had my first [U.S.] Supreme Court argument last December, and it was the best 30 minutes of my legal career.

■ **WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED AS A YOUNG LAWYER?** The best younger lawyers are those who know the facts and the law cold and then have the confidence to stand their



ground, particularly when their ideas differ from those of more senior colleagues.

Submitted by Ishan Bhabha, partner at Jenner & Block.