

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY **HOT LIST** | A SPECIAL REPORT

We recognize 15 law firms that set the bar in intellectual property law in 2015, scoring big wins for clients. They range from major firms with 1,000 or more lawyers to smaller shops with an IP focus. This year's group includes firms that went before the U.S. Supreme Court—and won—in key trademark and patent cases that impacted industries including technology and banking. Others took home big wins in matters involving music, sports and, yes, Spider-Man. These are their superhero stories.



Jenner & Block

In the parlance of Jenner & Block client Shawn Carter, a.k.a. Jay-Z, the firm helped save the rapper some big cheese last year. Jay-Z faced a copyright infringement lawsuit filed by Osama Ahmed Fahmy, the nephew of an Egyptian composer whose song “Khosara, Khosara” was sampled in the 2000 megahit “Big Pimpin.”

Jenner partner Andrew Bart, co-chairman of the firm’s content, media and entertainment practice, was hired to represent Jay-Z personally. On the first day of trial, Bart successfully argued that U.S. District Judge Christina Snyder should exclude references to the song’s lyrics, which Fahmy’s lawyer portrayed as “vulgar.”

Excluding discussion of the lyrics—Bart had argued that they were irrelevant to the copyright case and would prejudice his

client—“dramatically changed the flow of the case,” he said.

Snyder ruled for Jay-Z and the other defendants in the end, agreeing with arguments advanced by Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp, who represented Jay-Z’s co-defendants, that Fahmy lacked standing. The case was a “fun one to work on,” Bart said. Now, “Big Pimpin” is on his workout playlist.

On the patent side, Jenner scored wins over the past year for clients including Hospira Inc., Dow Chemical Co. and Nissan North America Inc. Firm attorneys are involved in litigation over cutting-edge technology now making its way into court, such as gene editing.

Bradford Lyerla, co-chairman of the patent litigation and counseling practice, argued for Hospira in May before an en banc U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Jenner brings a high level of trial experience to the table, Lyerla said. Intellectual property lawyers are part of the firm’s strong focus on pro bono, which he said helps broaden their trial portfolio and skills. “Experience means not wasting time arguing over issues that won’t see the light of day,” he said.

—ZOE TILLMAN



ANDREW BART

FIRM FACTS:

- Year founded: 1914 ■ Headquarters: Chicago
- Total attorneys: 501 ■ IP partners: 41 ■ IP associates: 37