

Law360 Names Firms Of The Year

By **Xiumei Dong**

Law360 (January 20, 2025, 8:00 PM EST) -- Eight law firms have earned spots as Law360's Firms of the Year, with 54 Practice Group of the Year awards among them, steering some of the largest deals of 2024 and securing high-profile litigation wins, including at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP took the top spot with 10 wins while Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Covington & Burling LLP shared second place with eight wins each. Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP and Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP each earned six wins. Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP and Kirkland & Ellis LLP rounded out the list with five wins apiece.

Many of the firms credited their recent success to a collaborative culture that spans practice areas and geographies.

Weil

"[Weil] strives to have a broad platform that performs well in both cyclical and countercyclical economic environments," the firm's executive partner, Barry Wolf, told Law360 by email.

The firm played a pivotal role as global antitrust and U.S. appellate counsel for Microsoft Corp. in its record-breaking \$68.7 billion acquisition of Call of Duty-maker Activision Blizzard Inc., the largest deal in Microsoft's history and the highest acquisition price ever paid in the gaming industry.

In another major deal, Weil advised The Home Depot Inc. on its \$18.25 billion acquisition of SRS Distribution Inc., a private equity-backed distributor of roofing and building supplies, marking a strategic move to expand its offerings for residential trade professionals.

The firm also advised Cedar Fair Entertainment Co. in its \$8 billion merger with Six Flags Entertainment Corp., combining the two companies to form an amusement park portfolio spanning North America.

In the restructuring space, the firm has the \$9 billion restructuring of Steward Health Care, facilitating asset sales and securing a global settlement with Medical Properties Trust Inc. that transferred 15 hospitals and erased \$7.5 billion in claims. The firm also guided Scandinavian Airlines through its restructuring, securing close to \$1.2 billion in exit financing.



Meanwhile, Weil's fund formation group helped asset management giant Brookfield Asset Management in the formation and closing of five mission-driven funds, totaling over \$50 billion.

"We also believe our culture of collaboration and collegiality across practices and geographies — where teamwork always takes precedence — also differentiates us in the marketplace and helps to drive outstanding results for our global clients," Wolf said.

Wolf also noted that Weil is currently undergoing a strategic expansion, having promoted 18 associates and counsel to the partnership last year. The firm also added 17 new lateral partners from top firms, opened new offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and further expanded its presence in private equity, a sector where Weil has long been a pioneer.

"When evaluating candidates, we seek to attract top talent from a diversity of professional and personal backgrounds," Wolf added. "As we know this fosters innovation, creativity and excellence in the practice of law and top service to our clients."