

A SPECIAL REPORT

APPELLATE HOT LIST

We are proud to present the 2020 Appellate Hot List honorees. These firms tackled novel issues and undoubtedly overcame unprecedented challenges over the past year, boasting high-profile and high-stakes wins in the nation's highest appellate courts across a number of practice areas—from Constitutional rights to immigration law to pharmaceutical and intellectual property disputes. Here, these winning firm leaders share their appellate successes, insights and lessons learned along the way. —Sarah Tincher, managing editor

PROSKAUER ROSE

■ **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 handled and won nearly a dozen appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit over the last year on behalf of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, which Congress created to oversee the restructuring of Puerto Rico's crippling debt—the largest municipal restructuring in United States history. Two key wins were *Vázquez-Garced v. FOMB* and *Méndez-Núñez v. FOMB*, which upheld the board's authority over budgetary matters against challenges by Puerto Rico's governor and its legislature. We convinced the court that the text and structure of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, the statute designed to address the debt crisis, compelled these outcomes.

■ **WHAT WAS YOUR FIRM'S KEY TO APPELLATE SUCCESS OVER THE PAST YEAR?** On every appeal that requires deep subject-matter knowledge, we carefully staff our cases with both appellate specialists and substantive experts, who collaborate at every stage from outlining the brief to conducting the oral argument.

■ **WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ELEMENT OF APPELLATE PRACTICE, IN YOUR OPINION?** There is nothing as rewarding as toiling over an argument in your brief, adjusting and rewriting until you get it just so, and then seeing the court endorse and echo your argument in the written decision.

■ **WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED AS A YOUNG LAWYER?** Surround yourself with colleagues from whom you can learn and who are as devoted to both the cases and clients as you are.

Submitted by [Mark Harris](#), co-head of Appellate practice at Proskauer.



Mark Harris

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