



Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation

Our practice is recognized as among the very best nationwide. Clients retain us for the most complex and high-stakes matters, and our victories have helped shape the legal landscape in many arenas. *Chambers USA* has called our team a “bench of talent that is impressive beyond belief.” We have an equally wide-ranging practice in the federal courts of appeals and the state appellate courts; handle or assist with complex legal matters in the trial courts; and provide strategic advice to clients in a wide variety of industries and across a broad range of substantive legal areas.

PRACTICE AT A GLANCE

- Our practice is co-chaired by former US Solicitor General Seth Waxman, who has argued over 85 cases before the US Supreme Court, and Mark Fleming, who has argued eight Supreme Court cases. We have a remarkably deep bench: Debo Adegbile, Tom Saunders, Felicia Ellsworth, David Bowker, Alan Schoenfeld and Louis Cohen have each argued in the US Supreme Court. Additionally, the group has argued several hundred appeals in the federal courts of appeals and state appellate courts.
- Seven different WilmerHale lawyers argued before the US Supreme Court since the beginning of the 2020–2021 term.
- We also have deep experience in the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, having argued more than 89 cases since January 2020. In January 2025, we argued and won six appeals in one week alone.
- In 2025, our appellate victories vacated \$300 million and \$223 million verdicts.

120+

total arguments before the US Supreme Court

“(WilmerHale has) an incredibly deep appellate bench with experience at all circuits as well as the Supreme Court that is second to none.”

— *Chambers USA*

BY THE NUMBERS, SINCE 2024

67

oral arguments

15

State and federal courts of appeals

34

attorneys handled the 2024 oral arguments

3

US Supreme Court oral arguments

ORAL ARGUMENTS

CIRCUIT COURT

20

Federal Circuit

8

Ninth Circuit

7

Second Circuit

4

First Circuit

4

Fourth Circuit

4

Fifth Circuit

RECOGNITION

- **Chambers USA** has recognized the firm’s Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Practice since 2005, including with Band 1 rankings. Clients praise the group, saying “they have an incredibly deep appellate bench with experience at all circuits as well as the Supreme Court that is second to none.” Partner Seth Waxman is consistently cited as a star individual, with sources calling him “simply the best appellate lawyer in the country right now” and a “powerhouse.”
- **The National Law Journal** has named WilmerHale to its Appellate Hot List for 15 years. In the *National Law Journal*’s 2024 Legal Awards, the firm was named a finalist for the Appellate Hot List and Washington DC General Litigation Department of the Year. Partner Seth Waxman was a finalist for Appellate Attorney of the Year.
- In the **Best Lawyers**’ Best Law Firms rankings, our Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Practice ranked in the first tier nationally, and in Boston and Washington DC from 2013–2024. In 2019, we were named the First Amendment Litigation Firm of the Year.
- **Benchmark Litigation** recognized several of WilmerHale’s appellate lawyers as National Litigation Practice Area Stars, Local Litigation Stars and Future Stars in 2021–2024. In 2024, WilmerHale was named “Appellate Firm of the Year” and was awarded its “Impact Case of the Year” for the victory in *Twitter v. Taamneh*.
- **The Legal 500 United States** has ranked WilmerHale’s Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Practice in the top tier in its annual guide from 2015–2024 and has also named Partner Seth Waxman to its Hall of Fame. The publication has commended the firm for its “superb pedigree before the US Supreme Court.”
- In 2020–2024, **IAM Patent 1000** again ranked WilmerHale a leading firm for litigation in the United States and internationally.
- **Law360** named WilmerHale’s Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Practice a “Practice Group of the Year” for the 2010–2016, 2019 and 2023 editions. The publication has also awarded the title of “Appellate MVP of the Year” to Partners Seth Waxman (2014) and Tom Saunders (2015), and recognized Partner Mark Fleming as “MVP of the Year” with distinction in appellate law (2011).
- **Managing IP** named WilmerHale the 2023 Patent Disputes Firm of the Year and Appellate Firm of the Year, and recognized with the Impact Case of the Year Award for our role in *Centripetal Networks v Cisco Systems* and *Open Sky Industries v VLSI Technology*; also awarded the Impact Case of the Year Award for our role in *Intel v Qualcomm (2022)*, *Mission Products Holdings Inc v. Tempnology LLC (2020)*, *PNC Bank National Association v. Secure Access (2019)*.
- **The American Lawyer** named WilmerHale the 2020 Law Firm of the Year and a finalist in its 2021 and 2018 Litigation Department of the Year contests. The firm has also won the magazine’s IP Litigation Department of the Year title three times and has been a finalist in the category six times since it was first awarded in 2004.

WE LEAD CASES IN AREAS SUCH AS:

- Administrative Law
- Antitrust
- Banking
- Bankruptcy
- Civil Rights
- Class Actions
- Constitutional Law
- Energy Regulation
- ERISA
- False Claims Act
- Federal Preemption
- Financial Regulation
- Immigration
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property
- Native American Law
- Securities
- Tax
- Telecommunications
- White-Collar and Criminal Law



Top-Tier Appellate Practice
The Legal 500 United States
Tier 1 Ranking in 2021-2024

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