

MVP: WilmerHale's Andrew Shipley

By **Clarice Silber**

Law360 (September 29, 2022, 2:02 PM EDT) -- WilmerHale's Andrew Shipley successfully defended L3Harris Technologies' award of a classified contract in a U.S. Government Accountability Office protest, earning him a spot among Law360's 2022 Government Contracts MVPs.

HIS BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT THIS YEAR:

Shipley touts his work with L3Harris Technologies Inc. in January as his biggest feat of the year, which involved defending its award of a classified contract in a GAO protest brought by Peraton Inc.

Due to the case's classified nature, his work had to be done in a sensitive compartmented information facility, or SCIF, at the agency's headquarters. That, in turn, meant all communications with the agency's counsel took place in the SCIF, all calls with GAO were made over a secured line, and all filings were provided to the agency's attorneys and delivered to the GAO through designated couriers.

Shipley said L3Harris Technologies asked him and his team to get involved "essentially at the agency's request."

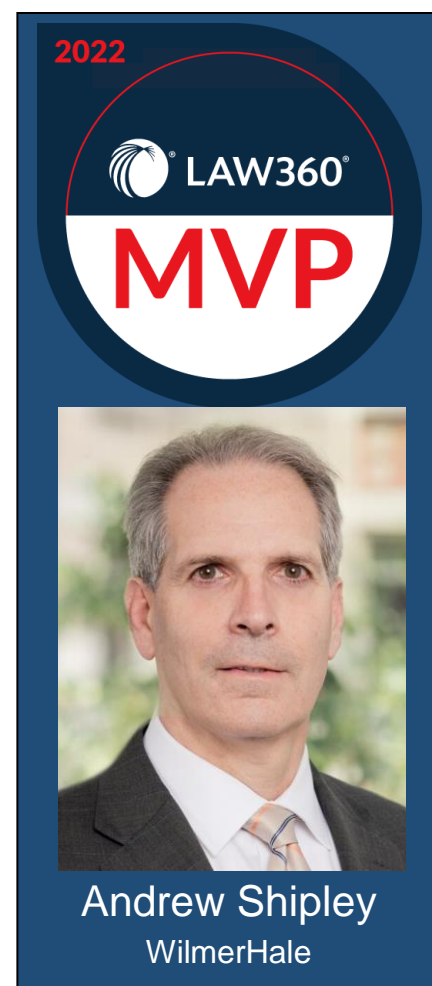
"And we were able to develop arguments that had not been made before that really more accurately captured what was going on in the procurement process, and defended the agency's decision making such that our client was able to retain the award," Shipley said.

HIS BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF THIS YEAR:

Shipley concurrently refers to his work with L3Harris Technologies as his biggest challenge in 2022, noting "the classified protest was done under extremely difficult conditions."

"We were in a small room, we could only do work inside that room, we could only access information through a classified network, so we couldn't ... take work home with us and work at night," he said.

Shipley added that they had been brought into the case somewhat late in the game.



"One of the reasons, I think, it was our greatest accomplishment was because we achieved a really terrific result under difficult circumstances," he said.

WHAT MOTIVATES HIM:

For Shipley, his motivation comes down to two key tenets — a desire for excellence and an ongoing unabated fear of failure.

"So I always want to do the best that I can, and I want to make sure I don't fail at what I do," he said.

Shipley added that he loves the practice of law and takes great pride in being an attorney.

"I always think that the people who truly dislike practicing law probably never should have been lawyers in the first place, for whatever reason they went into law, but it wasn't for them," he said. "It's perfect for me, and I love it."

HIS ADVICE FOR JUNIOR ATTORNEYS:

Shipley said that his advice for young attorneys would be to take every opportunity to learn.

"Instead of taking the hour and a half to get a really nice lunch at a fancy restaurant, think about going to a courtroom. Walking in and watching lawyers, you could learn from good lawyers, and you could learn from bad lawyers," he said. "You learn by watching other people do it."

He said junior lawyers should never stop learning, explaining that "the moment that you think you've learned it all, it's time to get out of the practice of law because you can always improve."

"And I think that you should just embrace the opportunity to improve your craft," he added.

— *As told to Clarice Silber.*

Law360's MVPs of the Year are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals, and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2022 MVP winners after reviewing more than 900 submissions.