

2022 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

APPELLATE HOT LIST

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorrr

■ **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.** In *Federal Bureau of Investigation v. Fazaga*, while litigating alongside the government, we were able to underscore the unique consequences of the court of appeals' decision for individual-capacity defendants. That helped situate the technical statutory issues in a more compelling argument about basic fairness to defendants. And to support that story in the U.S. Supreme Court, we drew on the foundations our team had laid in the lower courts. Being able to sow the seeds of the appellate strategy very early in the case is a great benefit of having our appellate specialists and our trial litigators so well integrated.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** The experience and expertise that our lawyers have in many different areas of the law, and the care that our attorneys, paralegals, and support staff all took to

ensure that we crafted the strongest possible arguments for each client.

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?**

The opportunity to wrestle on a regular basis with interesting and challenging questions, and to come up with answers to those questions that will appeal to courts as well as assist our clients (and hopefully others as well).

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** The importance of candor in dealing with the courts, including (perhaps particularly) when you've made a mistake. Credibility is critical, and once lost it's very hard to regain. ■



DANIEL VOLCHOK, PARTNER