

THE AMERICAN LAWYER



Class Acts

By Alison Frankel

WE'VE NEVER GRANTED HONORABLE MENTION kudos to as many Litigation Department of the Year contenders as we have this year—but that's because we've never before seen such stellar results from so many firms. Our Honorable Mentions go to litigation departments that won billion-dollar awards, that exposed high-level prosecutorial misconduct, that headed off potentially ruinous mass torts. Their cases spanned the globe, demonstrating more convincingly than ever that

for American firms, litigation is an international growth opportunity.

There's been a lot of talk since the recession hit about how litigation has not been the countercyclical hedge it was in other downturns. That may be true. Nevertheless, the results obtained by the firms on our list loom large as they and their clients begin to creep tentatively into recovery.

■ McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY

Nevada governor Jim Gibbons faced a federal corruption investigation, but after the governor, prepped by McDermott, had an all-important interview with the U.S. Department of Justice, prosecutors dropped the case with no charges brought. The firm also headed off criminal charges for two former AIPAC lobbyists and an InterMune vice-president.