

A SPECIAL REPORT

APPELLATE HOT LIST

The appellate luminaries featured in our 2019 special report won key matters before the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeals, staying true to their practice philosophies along the way. Here, they recount how they tackled appeals involving everything from racial gerrymandering to RICO. For more on their stories, read on. —*Lisa Helem*

VINSON & ELKINS

Tom Leatherbury, Marie Yeates and Jeremy Marwell discuss the firm's top U.S. Court of Appeals win.

■ **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] won a string of decisions for several pipeline and industrial clients involved in disputes at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, including a successful challenge to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's solid waste recycling rule, defense of two major pipeline projects and defeating an attack on the [FERC]'s pipeline approval process. Maintaining awareness of the facts and variables of these cases and anticipating how the law might change during the appeals process was critical, given the significant number of new projects being proposed at the time that generated similar litigation.

■ **HOW DID YOUR FIRM APPROACH APPELLATE SUCCESS OVER THE PAST YEAR?** Crafting the most

attractive, persuasive arguments resulted in a \$60 million 10th Circuit decision for Antero Resources and Texas Supreme Court wins for The Dallas Morning News in a defamation case and Anadarko in a \$100 million Deepwater Horizon dispute.

■ **WHAT IS THE MOST SATISFYING ELEMENT OF APPELLATE PRACTICE IN YOUR OPINION?** Collaborating with great lawyers, especially those new to the practice, to produce the best result for our clients.

■ **WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED AS A YOUNG LAWYER?** Keeping an open mind and listening to other points of view. The best lawyers are able to listen to someone else's approach or argument,



Tom
Leatherbury



Marie
Yeates



Jeremy
Marwell

recognize when it is better than one previously put forward and then adapt to it.

Submitted by Tom Leatherbury, Marie Yeates and Jeremy Marwell, partners at Vinson & Elkins.