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LAW SCHOOL
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SPECIALITY
Complex Litigation

Few dynamic trial lawyers earn a trusted leadership role on Dan Webb's elite litigation team. Thomas L. Kirsch, 35, finds himself at Winston & Strawn these days defending public figures in criminal prosecutions and large corporations in multibillion dollar commercial cases. Dan Webb says, "At an early age, Tom has earned an impressive reputation as an advocate and has demonstrated great talent in handling very complex cases from inception all the way through appeal."

When Kirsch clerked for John D. Tinder, who then was a federal district court judge, his assistance was invaluable. "It was evident to me that he was headed for a remarkable career as a lawyer," says Tinder, who now sits on the Seventh Circuit. He says Kirsch, who does not brag about his achievements, has now exceeded even those high expectations.

Kirsch immediately became an assistant U.S. attorney in northwest Indiana where, for more than five years, he led the area's most significant public corruption and fraud investigations in recent history. He prosecuted more than a dozen elected and appointed public officials, with convictions in every trial.

For a year Kirsch was counsel to the assistant attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Legal Policy. He focused on legislative and policy proposals in the areas of corporate crime, violent crime and counter-terrorism. His work also involved evaluating candidates for federal judgeships and participating in the nomination and confirmation process.

As a prosecutor, Kirsch tried cases involving mail fraud, wire fraud, honest services fraud, bank fraud, extortion under color of official right, money laundering, conspiracy, perjury, obstruction of justice, gangs and narcotics, and firearms offenses. He also prosecuted cases charging racketeering, tax fraud, health care fraud and child exploitation. On eight occasions he has briefed and argued appeals before the Seventh Circuit.

One district court judge says Kirsch established himself in Indiana "with his incredible advocacy skills and courtroom presence, professionalism, knowledge of the law, integrity, civility and work ethic." The judge reports that Kirsch was one of the finest litigators in the U.S. attorney's office and was assigned consistently to the most complex and difficult cases.

"He is kind, quick-witted and has a generous sense of humor," the judge adds.

James G. Richmond, a former U.S. attorney and a Greenberg Traurig defense lawyer who has seen Kirsch prosecute complex white collar matters, has known the young star for nearly a decade. He calls Kirsch "an exceptionally talented trial lawyer of high character and outstanding judgment, especially for his age."

Among Kirsch's many honors is the Department of Justice Director's Award for Superior Performance. He also was recognized by the FBI and the IRS for his work on white-collar prosecutions.

Kirsch's recent defense work includes a significant case in the Southern District of New York involving the tax treatment of leveraged leasing transactions for Altria Group. Murray R. Garnick, Altria's senior vice president and associate general counsel, says Kirsch "has demonstrated an ability to learn a complex area of law quickly, has shown excellent judgment."

Jon Casadont General Counsel and Senior Vice-President BlueStar Energy Services says, "I was always impressed with Tom's dedication and responsiveness," Casadont continues, "Tom consistently outperformed my own (often unreasonable) expectations."

Kirsch often has led teams of attorneys in his new firm's most important matters, including in the government's recent case against William Cellini, who was named as a co-defendant in the indictment of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

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