

# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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## 2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

### APPELLATE HOT LIST

## Winston & Strawn

- **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.** Our recent Supreme Court win for student-athletes was the fruit of a long collaboration between our appellate practice and our industry-leading sports and antitrust groups. Our firm represented the student-athletes from the beginning of the litigation, challenging rules that the NCAA has historically defended in the name of “amateurism.” When the case reached the [United States Court of Appeals for the] Ninth Circuit, our appellate practice worked closely with the Winston trial team and co-counsel in shaping the arguments for victory on appeal, and again on certiorari to the Supreme Court.
- **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** Our practice has grown in both depth and breadth, adding partners in Washington, D.C., with deep expertise in such topics as preemption, product liability, and administrative law, and expanding our profile in key state appellate and supreme courts, from Illinois to Texas and beyond.
- **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** Appellate



Linda Coberly, Chicago Managing Partner And Chair Of Appellate & Critical Motions Practice

practice puts the advocate in the center of critical conversations—with clients, on the strategic issues that matter most to their business, and with judges, on matters that will shape the development of the law. It’s a privilege and endlessly fascinating to be in these conversations.

- **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Be clear, and get to the point. The first sentence in any brief or argument should say why you win, in as few words as possible. ■