

The Legal Intelligencer

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2020 GENERAL LITIGATION FINALIST: MEYER UNKOVIC & SCOTT

The firm regularly represents Fortune 500 companies, banks, utilities, universities and similar clients that may have traditionally utilized large regional or national law firms to litigate significant lawsuits.

The firm's trial and appellate lawyers routinely handle multi-million-dollar lawsuits for our clients, including bet-the-company type litigation. Also, our litigators appear in federal and state courts throughout the commonwealth and neighboring states and before tribunals such as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In short, the firm's litigation and dispute resolution group includes some of the most effective trial and appellate lawyers in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and they can fully litigate against any law firm in the country, no matter their size or location. In 2019, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court published its decision in one of the firm's cases, creating



Chad I. Michaelson partner with Meyer Unkovic & Scott.

appellate precedent on the statutory construction of the Pennsylvania Condominium Act, and in adopting our client's position, affirmed the dismissal of approximately \$9 million (USD) in claims by a developer against our client related to parking licenses for a multitower condominium project.

Is it a penchant for efficiency, or a willingness to go the distance as effective trial advocates, that gives the litigation department its reputation?

It is both the willingness to go the distance and the ability to do so efficiently. In an era where the vast majority of lawsuits settle before trial, we have had the good fortune to have clients that are willing to take deserving cases to trial. Our talented litigators have taken advantage of these opportunities to obtain favorable outcomes for our clients and build our reputation for successful results in the courtroom. That said, we often work for clients that typically hire firms much, much larger than our firm. When clients see that we use lean teams and a lower overhead structure to

deliver the same or better results at a lower cost, it is hard to argue with the value proposition.

A prospective client in crisis calls and asks why your team should be retained—what is your answer?

Our philosophy as litigation counsel is to pursue cases strategically, aggressively and with purpose in order to reach the most efficient resolution possible. Knowing how to win at trial means knowing how to use pleadings, discovery and motions to tell our client's story and advocate for their desired outcome. We communicate with our clients to be sure they understand why we are doing what we are doing, and to know that we have a singular focus on solving their problem.

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations

of litigators are ready to take the helm?

We take great pride in our work in the courtroom, and we expect our younger lawyers to carry on that tradition. Our newest lawyers are immediately assigned responsibility for smaller matters that allow them to learn how to stand up and present a case. When we go to trial on larger cases, even the most junior member of the trial team is going to handle a witness or argue motions. We conduct in-house training and CLEs and send all of our litigation associates to NITA-style trial advocacy courses. We emphasize professional development because we believe that skilled lawyers will have success in their careers, and will continue to bring positive recognition to our firm.