

The Legal Intelligencer

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ALM.

LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: GENERAL 2022

Meyer Unkovic & Scott

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BY THE LEGAL INTELLIGENCER

Special to the Legal

Meyer Unkovic & Scott

The firm's litigation department has several strengths. Its most significant accomplishments are in the areas of complex business disputes and real estate and construction litigation. At the same time, the firm handles large, complex matters requiring extensive discovery and motions practice and, eventually, preparation for potentially lengthy trials.

Over the past several years, the firm has upgraded its in-house (SAAS) document review platform and document management system to allow its lawyers to access case information anywhere, anytime. The pandemic accelerated the firm's progress toward a paperless office and



Courtesy photo

Standing, left to right: Russell J. Ober, Jr., Kate E. McCarthy, Andrew L. Noble, Justin D. Beck, Joseph A. Carroll. Seated, left to right: Antoinette C. Oliver, Chad I. Michaelson, Robert E. Dauer Jr. of Meyer Unkovic & Scott.

many of the litigation files are now entirely electronic.

Chad I. Michaelson, partner, chair of litigation and dispute resolution group, answered the questions.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in the past year and how did you overcome them?

The pandemic has changed the way we practice law and navigating those issues has been a challenge. As a midsize firm, we don't need to adopt a one-size-fits-all approach and we try to provide each of our trial lawyers with the opportunity to work in the way they find most effective. At the

same time, we understand the value of in-person meetings for collaboration and training, so we are purposeful in creating incentives for our lawyers to gather in the office on a regular basis.

What fundamentals carried through and allowed you to succeed, despite the shutdowns and COVID-related changes?

We have continued to invest in our IT infrastructure so our lawyers have the tools they need to be productive no matter where they work. Procedures were developed to ensure all our litigation files are accessible remotely in a secure environment and many of our trial lawyers moved to an entirely

paperless practice. While trials were delayed by the shutdowns, discovery efforts continued and we successfully conducted hundreds of remote depositions and arguments, dozens of evidentiary hearings, and numerous bench trials and arbitrations via platforms like Teams and Zoom.

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm?

The firm focuses on helping our young lawyers become excellent advocates and productive members of the community, and we believe success will follow. Each associate is given opportunities



Courtesy photo

Chad I. Michaelson of Meyer Unkovic & Scott

for real courtroom experience and is teamed up with a more senior litigator to serve as a mentor. Since we always staff cases leanly, they generally have significant interactions with clients. We believe this approach has paid dividends as evidenced by the distinctions earned by many of our younger partners and senior associates.