

Litigator of the Week Runners-Up and Shout-Outs

By Ross Todd

February 28, 2025

Shout-out to law firms representing tire makers facing claims they conspired to fix prices on replacement tires sold in the U.S. during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. U.S. District Chief Judge Sara Lioi in Akron, Ohio, who is overseeing multidistrict litigation over replacement tire prices, issued a 94-page decision dismissing the claims this week. Lioi wrote “the fact that defendants raised their prices while inflation and supply chain logistics were worsening suggests rational pricing behavior in an interdependent market, not conspiracy.” Michelin was represented by a team at **Latham & Watkins** led by partners **Belinda Lee, Ashley Bauer** and **Chris Yates**, with associates **Juliette Brezin, Carmen Crossley** and **Serena Candelaria**, as well as local counsel, Thompson Hine partner Elizabeth Wright. **Lee** argued the joint motion to dismiss on behalf of the defendants. Goodyear was represented by Kate Patchen and Robert Wick of Covington & Burling and David Wallace of Taft Stettinius & Hollister. Bridgestone was represented by Adam Hemlock and David Lender of Weil Gotshal, as well as James Lyons Jr., R. Brian Borla and W. Bradford Longbrake of Hanna, Campbell & Powell. Nokian was represented by B. Parker Miller, Grace Assaye, Laura Komarek, Meredith Kingsley and Robert Poole of Alston & Bird, as well as David Barthel and Michael Carpenter of Carpenter Lipps. Continental was represented by Jeffrey Bank, Mikaela Evans-Aziz and Jeffrey VanHooreweghe of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, as well as Alycia Broz and Kenneth Rubin of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease. Pirelli was represented by a White & Case team led by partners J. Mark Gidley and Robert Milne and associate Daniel Medici.