

Litigator of the Week Runners-Up and Shout-Outs

By Ross Todd

Aug 2, 2024

► Shout-out to lawyers at Williams & Connolly, **Latham & Watkins**, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, and Ehrlich & Craig, who helped three large shareholders of satellite communications company Intelsat S.A. fend off claims that they traded on insider information surrounding a meeting between the company and the Federal Communications Commission. In its first decision dealing with the pleading standards for insider trading claims in a decade, the Ninth Circuit last week found that the plaintiff failed to plead adequately that any of the alleged information that the defendants had was material. Gerson Zweifach of Williams & Connolly argued on behalf of Silver Lake Group. He was joined on the briefs by partners Steven Farina and Amanda MacDonald and Miles Ehrlich and Katharine Kates of Ehrlich & Craig. Latham's **Melanie Blunski** argued on behalf of BC Partners. The Latham team also included partners **Matthew Rawlinson, Benjamin Naftalis** and **Morgan Whitworth**, of counsel **Richard Owens**, and associates **Nicholas Rosellini, Christina Gay, Aamir Virani** and **Ruth Hirsch**. Wilson Sonsini's Evan Seite argued on behalf of David McGlade, the former chair of Intelsat's board. He was joined on the briefs by Nina Locker, Steffen Johnson and John Kenney.

► Shout-out to another team at **Latham** that got a win at the Delaware Supreme Court for medical technology client Edwards Lifesciences in a dispute stemming from its 2017 acquisition of Valtech and that company's Cardioband valve repair device. In what appears to be its first decision upholding the dismissal of an earn-out dispute on ripeness grounds, the court turned back Valtech shareholders' claim for \$300 million based on allegations that Edwards failed to use "commercially reasonable efforts" to develop Cardioband. The state high court upheld a Chancery Court ruling finding the claims were not ripe because the earn-out period had not expired. The Latham team includes partners **Michele Johnson, Eric Leon, Kuan Huang, Samir Deger-Sen** and associates **Sarah Burack, Jordan Goldberg** and **Nikita Kansra**, with local counsel Ryan Stottmann, Jon Abramczyk, Brian Egan and Alec Hoeschel of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell.