

# THE AMERICAN LAWYER

www.americanlawyer.com

JANUARY 2004

LITIGATION  
DEPARTMENT  
*of the YEAR*



## THE VERDICT IS IN!

*Finalist* - MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP



# Walking the Line

MORGAN, LEWIS KNOWS HOW TO BARGAIN AT THE TABLE AND BATTLE IN THE COURTHOUSE.

By Jennifer Fried

**L**ONG KNOWN FOR facing off with unions, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has moved beyond its traditional labor law niche. These days, with 66 partners, an expanding pool of clients, and a growing chunk of the firm's revenue, the management defense practice at the Philadelphia-based firm goes far beyond negotiating with organized workers.

In the past two years, Morgan, Lewis's labor and employment group has racked up an impressive trial record, warding off sizable class actions for clients including Wachovia Corporation, Agilent Technologies, Inc., and Merck & Co., Inc. Early last year, representing United Paramount Network, DreamWorks SKG, and several other studios and networks, Morgan, Lewis averted a giant age discrimination class action that would have consolidated many suits filed by television writers. With TV executives, lawyers, and journalists watching closely, West Coast practice group leader George Stohner and partner Grace Speights convinced a Los Angeles superior court judge to deny class certification in the six suits that were filed against Morgan, Lewis clients. "You [had] a packed courtroom with a lot of interested people," recalls Stohner. "You couldn't help but be aware that they were listening to every argument."

Despite its class action prowess, our sole finalist as labor and employment litigation department of the year hasn't abandoned its



MICHAEL JIN, BOWLES

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GRACE SPEIGHTS, STEVEN WALL, MARK DICHTER, CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS, GEORGE STOHNER, ANNE MARIE ESTEVEZ

footing in traditional labor law. Representing management in industries ranging from airlines to bakeries to Major League Baseball, the firm still knows its way around collective bargaining tables and the National Labor Relations Board. In 2002 Morgan, Lewis helped resolve the potentially disastrous labor dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association and longshoremen after a ten-day work stoppage in West Coast ports.

And judging by the firm's growing pool of lateral partner hires—the labor and employment group picked up new 11 partners and 11 other lawyers since the beginning of 2002—more good work is bound to come.

E-mail: [jfried@amlaw.com](mailto:jfried@amlaw.com).

PRACTICE GROUP	Partners: 66 Associates: 110 Other lawyers: 12
----------------	--

GROUP AS PERCENT OF FIRM	Partners: 16% Associates: 17% Other lawyers: 12%
--------------------------	--

ESTIMATED PERCENT OF FIRM REVENUE 2003	17%
--	-----

**ON THE DOCKET** The firm is currently representing BellSouth Corporation in an employment discrimination class action pending in Alabama.

This article is reprinted with permission from the January 2004 edition of THE AMERICAN LAWYER. © 2004 ALM Properties, Inc. All rights reserved. Further duplication without permission is prohibited. For information, contact American Lawyer Media, Reprint Department at 800-888-8300 x6111. #001-01-04-0017

## Morgan Lewis

C O U N S E L O R S   A T   L A W  
[www.morganlewis.com](http://www.morganlewis.com)