

# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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## 2021 NLJ Awards: Professional Excellence

### LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR: SPECIALTY INSURANCE WINNER

#### Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

- **Describe your firm's approach to litigation and your strategy for building successful teams for trials or other matters.** Our insurance recovery litigation protects policyholders facing potentially massive product, tort, environmental, securities or other liabilities. Forum selection and a long-term strategic plan are key. We assemble diverse teams incorporating, trial, appellate, settlement skills, and knowledge of underlying liabilities.
- **Discuss the two biggest litigation cases your firm worked on in 2020 and how you reached successful outcomes.** The two biggest litigations we worked on in 2020 were for Rite Aid and ITT. For Rite Aid we reached a successful outcome by bringing an early dispositive motion keyed to what the client needs. For ITT, we reached a successful outcome through trial ability, employing fact and expert testimony in a tightly presented and carefully orchestrated series of trials.
- **What are the most challenging and satisfying aspects of your work in litigation?** The most challenging aspects of litigation in the COVID era involves



PAUL ZEVIK

engaging in delicate settlement negotiations remotely. It is most gratifying when parties reach a mutually agreeable complex settlement and leave the negotiations as friendly colleagues.

- **What is the most important piece of advice you'd share with young lawyers?** All litigation aspects must have a strategic focus, determined by the client, with good advice, including settlements. Never lose sight of long-term strategic goals. Disregard opposing counsel's words and deeds. ■