

## THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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LEGAL AWARDS  
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### APPELLATE HOT LIST

#### Clement & Murphy



Erin Murphy, Partner

■ **Tell us about your top U.S. Supreme Court or federal appeals court victory over the past year and how you and your team achieved the win.**

While we're proud of all the wins we've accomplished since starting our new firm last year, we're particularly proud of our victory in *Axon v. FTC*. For decades, virtually all the lower courts had held that a party seeking to challenge the constitutionality of a federal agency couldn't do

so until after it had submitted to the full gamut of unconstitutional agency proceedings. In *Axon*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed that near-consensus. The Supreme Court's decision not only paves the way for people to get critical constitutional questions into the courts much more quickly, but also makes it harder for

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agencies to insulate themselves from constitutional challenges by pressuring parties into administrative settlements.

■ **What was your firm's key to appellate success over the past year?** We have an exceptionally talented team of attorneys who genuinely enjoy the law and put their absolute all into every case. When it comes to constantly producing top-notch work, there is simply no substitute for that.

■ **What is the most satisfying element of appellate practice, in your opinion?** The variety. We

have always had a very generalist practice. One day it's the First Amendment, the next day it's the Second. Or maybe it's thorny issues of administrative law, or arbitration, or statutory interpretation. That constant variety keeps the job new and exciting day in and day out.

■ **What's the most valuable lesson you learned as a young lawyer?** Find work you genuinely enjoy doing and people you genuinely enjoy doing it with. If you can manage to do that, all the rest will fall into place. ■