

Gala Honoree: Dedication to Justice Award Recipient



James L. Hallowell is a partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's New York office and is a member of the firm's Litigation Practice Group. Jim has extensive experience in business and commercial litigation matters, with an emphasis on insurance and reinsurance litigation and arbitration, securities litigation, mergers and acquisitions and corporate control litigation, antitrust and government investigations.

In insurance and reinsurance matters, Jim has represented insurers in various matters. Most recently, he defended The Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company ("VALIC") in breach of contract litigation brought in the West Virginia Business Court Division by two state agencies on behalf of the West Virginia Teachers Retirement System. Plaintiffs sought \$120 million in "lost investment opportunity" damages arising from VALIC's liquidation of \$248 million in annuity funds in five increments over four years instead of immediately on demand. In 2017, VALIC prevailed in an arbitration before three West Virginia Business Court judges. The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals unanimously affirmed the result.

In 2014, Jim filed suit on behalf of life settlement investor Lavastone Capital, an affiliate of AIG, bringing RICO, fraud, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and unjust enrichment claims against Coventry First, LLC and its owners. The high-profile matter proceeded on a "rocket docket" schedule in the Southern District of New York, culminating in a two-month bench trial conducted in September and October 2015 before U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff. The parties reached a confidential settlement while the case was under submission. In February 2017, Benchmark Litigation recognized the Lavastone action as its "Impact Case of the Year."

Jim also successfully defended American General Life Insurance Company against breach of contract and trade secret claims brought by Bancorp Services, LLC arising from American General's development of cutting-edge BOLI and COLI products. The plaintiffs in that action voluntarily dismissed their claims with prejudice as summary judgment loomed.

In corporate control litigation, Jim has represented companies, shareholders, directors and underwriters across a range of industries. In antitrust matters, Jim served as counsel to the Title Insurance Rate Service Association, Inc. (TIRSA), an insurance rating board licensed by the New York State Insurance Department, and to corporations such as Aetna, Intel and Micron.

Jim has represented issuers and underwriters in securities class action matters, including Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, FINOVA and Edison Schools. He has also represented financial institutions, insurers and individuals in government investigations, related criminal prosecutions and private litigation.

Jim volunteers his time to pro bono matters. In 2011 Jim received a Commitment to Justice award from inMotion and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fund for Modern Courts.

Jim received his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 1994. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and English from the University of Virginia in 1991. In 1994 and 1995 he was a law clerk to Chief Judge Thomas P. Griesa in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. He is admitted to practice in the State of New York, the Southern District, Eastern District and Northern District Courts of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association and the New York City Bar Association.