

MIDSIZE HOT LIST | A SPECIAL REPORT

We asked our readers to nominate law firms with between 51 and 150 attorneys that have used their creativity and skill to stay competitive in courtrooms and at deal tables across the U.S. The 20 firms we highlight this week have held their own, often against much larger firms, charting winning courses in high-stakes matters that led to key victories in 2015. Above all, these firms embody lawyering at its essence—working hard to understand and serve their clients' needs.



DWIGHT BOSTWICK

Zuckerman Spaeder

Over the past year, Zuckerman Spaeder has been busy at work on high-profile disputes, while evolving.

This year, longtime Zuckerman Spaeder chairman Graeme Bush handed the job to Dwight Bostwick. As the firm approached the succession, it took on high-profile representation of a young lawyer ensnared in the collapse of Dewey & LeBoeuf.

The firm also represented Don Blankenship, the former Massey Energy Co. chief executive who went to trial over his involvement in mine safety violations. Twenty nine West Virginia miners died after a 2010 explosion in a mine he ran. A jury convicted him only on a misdemeanor conspiracy charge.

The firm has invested in Washington. Last year it hired Catherine Duval from the State Department. She had worked in the federal government on the investigations of Lois Lerner, a former IRS official, for allegedly targeting conservative political groups, and for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding Benghazi. Zuckerman Spaeder handled

Lerner's congressional probe and an investigation by the Department of Justice. Though the House held Lerner in contempt, the Justice Department announced she would face no charges.

"I wanted to reiterate that I'm thrilled to be here," Duval told the NLJ when she joined the firm.

Five years ago, the firm built out its criminal defense team in New York, then added health insurance litigators to the office in 2014.

One of former New York partner Paul Shechtman's recent cases at Zuckerman was among the most closely-watched in the legal industry: the indictment of Zachary Warren, a former Dewey & LeBoeuf employee who was accused along with former leaders at that firm. (Shechtman went to Bracewell this month with fellow white-collar partner, Barbara Jones.)

Warren's charges were dropped in February after a deferred-prosecution agreement.

—KATELYN POLANTZ

FIRM FACTS:

- **Year founded:** 1975
- **Headquarters:** Washington
- **Total attorneys:** 78
- **Partners:** 41
- **Associates:** 14



ZUCKERMAN SPAEDER LLP