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**Subject:** 2019 Year In Review: The Legal Industry


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 Law360 Special  
Report

Year In Review

Thursday, December 26, 2019

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#### LAW FIRMS

Allen & Overy  
Austin LLP  
Berry Appleman  
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Dentons  
Drinker Biddle  
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Greenberg Traurig  
Hughes Hubbard  
Jones Day  
Kirkland & Ellis  
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LeClairRyan  
Mayer Brown  
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Ogletree Deakins  
Outten & Golden  
Pepper Hamilton  
Sidley Austin  
Skadden  
Taft Stettinius  
Troutman Sanders  
Ulmer & Berne  
Wiggin and Dana  
Williams & Connolly  
Willkie Farr

### 5 Trends That Rocked The Legal Industry In 2019

From some law firms' hard-knuckle responses to discrimination lawsuits filed against them to the Big Four's ongoing creep into the legal sector, these were some of the moments and trends that shook the industry in 2019.

### Looking Back: Law360's 2019 Legal Lions And Lambs

It was a big year for explosive news in the legal industry. Here, Law360 rounds up the noteworthy legal industry peaks and valleys with one final legal lions and lambs list.

### All Talk, Little Action: BigLaw Mergers Were Scarce In 2019

In a record-breaking year for total U.S. law firm combinations, blockbuster merger announcements were few and far between. But experts say a slew of

firms expressed interest and began feeling out a tie-up this past year, which could mean merger madness at the top end of the market in 2020.

## Poetic Justice: How Judges Got Creative In 2019

Amid headline-grabbing decisions and groundbreaking precedent out of federal courts in 2019, judges also injected bits of levity and creativity in their otherwise serious work, quipping about that last "Game of Thrones" season or quoting the Bard. Here, Law360 presents some of the best poetry, zingers and pop-culture references that popped up in opinions over the past year.

## The 7 Most Divisive Judicial Confirmations Of 2019

In a banner year for judicial confirmations, senators in 2019 signed off on 20 circuit judges and 80 district judges as President Donald Trump clinched his 185th appointment — but in reaching that milestone, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell faced a number of heated battles along the way.

## THE STATE OF THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

### The Law360 400

Kirkland & Ellis LLP has redefined what it means to be the biggest of BigLaw — weighing in at 2,116 attorneys by year end 2018 and becoming the first firm since Law360 began tracking law firm head counts to top 2,000 U.S.-based attorneys.

### The 2019 Law360 Glass Ceiling Report

Our annual survey of the largest U.S. law firms again shines a light on the lack of parity for female attorneys in private practice. Though women now make up more than half of law school students, the Glass Ceiling Report shows they continue to be underrepresented at all levels of a typical law firm and that their numbers dwindle as they move up the ranks.

### The 2019 Law360 Diversity Snapshot

U.S. law firms have long touted their commitment to diversity and inclusion. But those goals still seem far from being realized. Law360's annual Diversity Snapshot indicates only marginal progress on racial and ethnic diversity in the attorney workforce from year to year, even as demands grow from clients expecting more diverse legal teams.

## PODCAST

### Law360's Pro Say: Will The Glass Ceiling Ever Break?

For years women have been looking around their law firms and seeing mostly men in leadership. When will things change? On the latest episode of Law360's Pro Say podcast we discuss our annual Glass Ceiling report, which reveals a glacial pace for increased gender parity in the law, and we talk to one prominent female attorney who managed to crack the glass ceiling.

WilmerHale  
Zuckerman Spaeder

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