

D.C.'S RISING STARS

Washington, D.C., is a magnet for the top graduates from the top law schools in some of the most sophisticated practices in the nation, including appellate and antitrust. So for the NLJ's 2017 Rising Stars list, how did we go about reviewing a large pool of smart, young nominees? Very carefully. We looked for key elements including success on the highest stages, diversity of practice groups and law firms. We also looked closely at recommendations. We are proud to present our 2017 Rising Stars. This year, we share their keys to success in their own words, edited for clarity and length. —*Lisa Helem, managing editor*

A SPECIAL REPORT



GINGER ANDERS, 39

FIRM: MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON

PRACTICE: APPELLATE AND COMPLEX LITIGATION

TITLE: OF COUNSEL

■ **WHAT WAS THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF PRACTICE?** Sometimes cases that seem hopeless actually aren't, and persistence and careful lawyering can really make a difference.

■ **DESCRIBE YOUR BIGGEST WIN OR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN PRACTICE.** I helped convince an initially very skeptical judge that Missouri's lethal injection procedures were unconstitutional, and then helped attorneys across the country investigate and bring lethal injection challenges in their states.

■ **WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR GREATEST LAWYER MENTOR?** Don Verrilli [former solicitor general and founder of Munger, Tolles & Olson's Washington, D.C., office] taught me that the most important thing in one's career is to pursue principles one believes in, and that if one builds a practice around those principles, then everything else will follow.

■ **PLEASE SHARE A KEY TO YOUR SUCCESS.** A trial judge once told me that he liked that I was persistent, and I think it's important to explore every possible strategy until you're satisfied that you've done everything you can for your client.