

APPELLATE

HOT LIST

The National Law Journal's annual Appellate Hot List profiles 20 firms that represent the best in the practice of appellate law. These are firms that have amassed precedent-setting victories in the U.S. Supreme Court, the circuit courts of appeal and state appellate courts and that have demonstrated impressive track records over time.

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YetterColeman LLP

This Texas litigation boutique has a thriving practice in state and federal appeals courts. Its eleven-member appellate group is regularly called upon to take over cases on appeal, rather than existing primarily to handle internally generated appeals.

NOTEWORTHY CASES

• *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder*, 129 S. Ct. 2504 (2009). Lead attorneys Greg Coleman, Chris Ward, Ryan Bates and James Zucker. The district, in conducting board elections, requested exemption from the Voting Rights Act. The firm prevailed in arguing that the district was a political subdivision with a clean voting rights record and thus was entitled to exemption.

• *Ricci v. DeStefano*, 129 S. Ct. 2658 (2009). Lead attorneys Greg Coleman (argued), Ed Dawson, Dori Kornfeld Goldman and Ryan Bates. The firm represented firefighters who sued New Haven, Conn., for discrimination in violation of the equal protection clause and Title VII. Seventeen whites and one Hispanic were allegedly refused promotion based on the racial distribution of candidates. In reversing, the Court ruled that the firefighters were entitled to summary judgment.

• *Morgan v. Plano Indep. Schl. Dist.*, 589 F.3d 740 (5th Cir. 2009). Lead counsel Greg Coleman, Chris Ward and Rich Farrer. The firm successfully defended a school district's regulations governing distribution of students' noncurricular written materials against a constitutional challenge.



GREG COLEMAN (LEFT) AND PAUL YETTER
PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM CALLINS

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