

MVP: Cravath's Lauren A. Moskowitz

By Rick Archer

Law360 (September 16, 2021, 4:43 PM EDT) -- Lauren Moskowitz of Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP helped guide The Weinstein Co. to a resolution of its high-profile Chapter 11 case, along with getting Dutch retail giant HEMA BV U.S. recognition for its bankruptcy case and toolmaker Stanley Black & Decker Inc. an administrative recovery in Sears' Chapter 11, earning her a spot as one of Law360's 2021 Bankruptcy MVPs.

HER BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE PAST YEAR:

Moskowitz counts seeing The Weinstein Co. movie production company through to the confirmation of its Chapter 11 plan in January 2021 as her most significant accomplishment of the last year. Roadblocks along the way included forging a settlement with alleged victims of sexual harassment by company founder Harvey Weinstein, only for a district court judge to reject the deal in July 2020, forcing the negotiation of a new, \$17 million settlement.

"It certainly took a long and winding road to get to the end, but it was satisfying to see it through," she said.

HER BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF THE PAST YEAR:

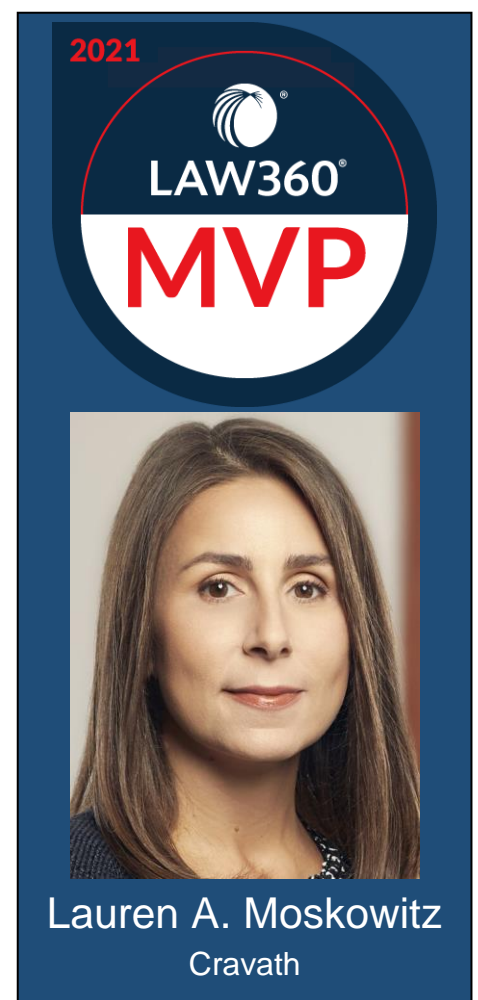
Moskowitz said her biggest challenge of the year was juggling a "full-blown" bankruptcy practice and a "full-blown" litigation practice, which included representing Epic Games in its antitrust action against Apple.

Navigating this was a team effort, with someone to call in to help whenever the bankruptcy side or litigation side of her practice heated up, she said.

"At any given time, I can lean on my partners," Moskowitz said.

Despite the difficulties, she said she equally loves the challenges of litigation and bankruptcy.

"I wouldn't have given up any of these experiences," Moskowitz said.



WHY SHE'S A BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY:

"It's just never the same," Moskowitz said. "It's challenging and interesting to keep learning new things all the time."

She said the challenges go beyond the details of a particular case — although that may involve learning everything about the debtor you're representing — stretching into figuring the maximum value that can be achieved in the case.

"You have to figure out what the win is and how to get there," Moskowitz said. "When you're in a litigation, you know what your goal is. Generally speaking it's very clear."

"There's just nothing more fulfilling for me than to crack the code," she said.

HER ADVICE FOR JUNIOR ATTORNEYS:

Moskowitz says young attorneys should be active participants in their training and "squeeze every drop" out of every assignment.

"You'll get way more out of it if you make everything you do an opportunity to learn," she said. "You can get a real lot out of those early moments."

Moskowitz added that they should engage in "active thinking," even while observing senior attorneys in action.

"Critically think about why I did it the way I did it," she said.

— *As told to Rick Archer. Editing by Adam LoBelia.*

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2021 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.