

## Rising Star: Cravath's Lauren Moskowitz

By **Max Stendahl**



*Law360, New York (April 29, 2014, 6:55 PM ET)* -- At 34 years old, Lauren Moskowitz of Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP has mastered the art of defending complex mortgage backed securities litigation and even successfully argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, making her one of Law360's top 10 securities attorneys under the age of 40.

Moskowitz, one of Law360's Rising Stars list for 2014, began working for Cravath in 2005 and was promoted to partner in 2013.

Since 2010, Moskowitz has been part of a small team of Cravath lawyers representing Credit Suisse Group AG in all of the bank's litigation and regulatory matters relating to residential mortgage-backed securities, or RMBS. Where other young attorneys might be scared off by the complicated statistics and proofs involved in RMBS litigation, Moskowitz — who holds dual bachelor degrees in math and economics — has risen to the challenge.

"Working with Credit Suisse has been a great opportunity, given how much trust they have in us," she said. "They don't insist on having senior lawyers represent them, either, which has been important in building my practice as a young partner."

As an associate, Moskowitz took on responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day management of dozens of RMBS cases. In the second half of 2013 alone, she took or defended more than 20 depositions. And in a sign of her stature among fellow RMBS lawyers, she was nominated by co-counsel to lead the briefing and expert submissions regarding loan sampling on behalf of scores of Wall Street banks sued by the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Moskowitz's work has paid off for Credit Suisse. In March 2013, a federal judge threw out fraud claims by Union Central Life Insurance Co. and other plaintiffs over about \$65 million in securities. One month later, in a case brought by the National Credit Union Administration Board, a Kansas federal judge granted the bank's motion to dismiss federal and state law claims over about \$404 million in RMBS, according to the firm.

In the NCUA case, Moskowitz argued that the plaintiff couldn't rely on the parties' tolling agreement in order to show that its claims were brought in a timely fashion.

“It was us sitting around and saying, ‘How can we think outside the box here?’” she recalled, referring to the briefing period on the bank’s motion to dismiss. “Ultimately, this new, creative argument came to fruition despite facing some odds.”

While Moskowitz has focused largely on RMBS litigation, Rich Clary, a fellow partner in Cravath’s litigation department, described her as a “generalist” who is capable of tackling a wide range of cases.

Unlike many of her peers, Clary said, Moskowitz understands both how to build a case for trial and how to develop a thorough record for a possible appeal.

“She’s very much at ease in the courtroom,” he added. “Judges like her instinctively, and clients love her.”

One of those clients is Perella Weinberg, the financial adviser. Moskowitz helped to successfully defend the firm in a shareholder class action stemming from BPW Acquisition Corp.’s investment in Talbots Inc. in 2010.

In another major case, Moskowitz helped to secure a victory for CSX Corp. following a bench trial in a suit against hedge funds that had sought five seats on the company’s board and amendments to its by-laws.

In 2013, Moskowitz crossed off another entry from her legal bucket list: arguing a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Representing Diana Montoya Alvarez, a U.K. citizen who left the country with her child to live in New York, Moskowitz argued that the father should not be permitted to return the child to the U.K. for custody proceedings. The court agreed in March 2014, ruling in favor of Alvarez.

Clary noted, with some amazement, that Moskowitz was just 33 years old at the time of the argument.

“Even for Cravath,” he said, “that’s pretty unique.”

--Editing by Chris Yates.

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