

## THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL



### LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS OF THE YEAR: WHISTLEBLOWER WINNER

**Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale  
and Dorr**



Christopher Babbitt,  
Co-Chair, False Claims Act Practice

■ **Describe your firm's approach to litigation and your strategy for building successful teams for trials or other matters.** Our lawyers love to collaborate—with each other, clients, even lawyers at other firms to get positive results. We create multidisciplinary teams with diverse experiences to be ready for any emerging challenges. One difference we've noticed is our lawyers deeply understand the

governmental programs at issue. That's essential to developing and executing a winning defense strategy.

■ **Discuss the two biggest litigation cases your firm worked on in 2022 and how you reached**

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**successful outcomes.** WilmerHale represented KBR in a recently settled qui tam action by former employees tied to wartime services in Iraq. Plaintiffs alleged KBR abused its discretion, overordering materials in its support of military personnel. KBR responded any overordering was minimal and in good faith. We also represented Cigna in a False Claims Act lawsuit recently settled for about \$172 million by the general counsel of a former third-party vendor Cigna employed to provide home health assessments for Medicare beneficiaries in the company's Medicare Advantage plans.

■ **What are the most challenging and satisfying aspects of your work in litigation?** The challenge of these cases also makes them satisfying to tackle. The stakes for clients are huge. FCA cases potentially carry treble damages, penalties, even debarment. The litigation dynamics are unusual—the DOJ and relator have distinct interests and incentives. Furthermore, the law can be complex. All this creates opportunities for sophisticated, creative lawyering—and to deliver extraordinary results for our clients