

# New York Law Journal

## DISTINGUISHED LEADER: Scott Musoff



**W**hat are some of your proudest recent achievements? While I am very proud of my individual achievements at trial, including successfully trying one of the largest mutual fund cases to date, I am most honored to reflect on what Skadden's Complex Litigation and Trials Group has accomplished under my leadership. We were named the 2021 Litigation Department of the Year by the *New York Law Journal*, as well as a finalist in the publication's 2023 and 2022 competition and a 2021 finalist for Litigation Department of the Year by *The American Lawyer*. These recognitions

are truly a testament to the collective results we have attained for our clients and demonstrate the accomplishments of a talented and diverse team of litigators. I am also proud of our continued DEI initiatives. From our increasingly more diverse new associate classes each year to our recent promotion of several women to partners in our Complex Litigation and Trials Group, I am truly privileged to lead this talented team.

# DISTINGUISHED LEADER

**Name a lawyer or mentor whose leadership inspired you.** Without hesitation, I would say **Jay Kasner**, head of our nationwide securities litigation practice. Under Jay's leadership, our practice transitioned from largely focusing on deal litigation and hostile takeovers in the 1980s to a full-fledged litigation practice that includes the most prolific securities litigation group in the country. Early in my career, we worked closely together digging into the legislative history of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act and have been at the forefront of securities litigation ever since. In fact, for the period January 1, 2019, through March 31, 2024 Skadden has defended more federal securities actions and federal securities class actions than any other firm, according to Lex Machina. I am constantly inspired by Jay's mentorship of many of our most successful partners. While modeling what Les Arps referred to as "upper margin work" and a client-centric focus, Jay encouraged me and others to approach this profession in our own unique way. His deep commitment to family, philanthropy and community has shown me that it's possible to accommodate for these priorities while leading a top tier practice.

**How are the business and profession of law changing, and how should lawyers adapt for the**

**future?** We're at a time where multiple generations are converging to practice law together amid a period of rapidly evolving technology. Junior associates are entering the work force in an unprecedented time following the pandemic. We need to recognize the dramatic culture shifts, without sacrificing our commitment to excellence. Investing in and properly developing our associates is key, while also encouraging them to build relationships with senior-level attorneys and learn from their years of experience in the legal profession.

**What is the best advice for someone considering a career in law, or someone already in the profession who is seeking to make a greater impact?** Be curious, go out of your comfort zone and take ownership over what you do. I would encourage junior lawyers to find formal and informal mentors not only within their own law firms but from outside as well. We work in one of the greatest professions in the world, and if you immerse yourself in as many ways as possible through bar associations, pro bono work, non-profits, joint defense teams and community engagement, you have the potential to build relationships that will be with you for a long time. It's a marathon, not a sprint, but over time, these connections will leave you more fulfilled professionally and personally.