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New York Law Journal

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR WINNER (MIDSIZE):

HUGHES HUBBARD & REED

Responses by Neil J. Oxford, chair, and Robb Patryk, managing partner of Hughes Hubbard & Reed.

What were your firm's most significant accomplishments in New York during the past year?

Our accomplishments in New York spanned our litigation, corporate and M&A, restructuring and finance platforms. Our litigation team won a nearly $500 million jury verdict in the Southern District of New York for Denmark's tax authority, SKAT, involving an alleged $1.1 billion fraud scheme. We also won a separate $165 million bench trial judgment and secured additional settlements exceeding $450 million for the client.

Our corporate and M&A team advised New York-based regional bank Flushing Financial Corp. on its $579 million merger with OceanFirst Financial Corp.

Our restructuring team advised on the Chapter 11 cases and restructuring of GOL Linhas Aéreas Inteligentes S.A., one of Brazil's largest domestic airlines, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

Our finance teams in New York and Washington, D.C., advised Griffin Global Asset Management on its inaugural $1.245 billion issuance, the largest issuance in the history of aircraft ABS markets.

These client successes reflect our ability to handle complex, high-value work across sectors.

What distinguishes your firm from its competitors?

We distinguish ourselves through a deliberately focused model built on senior judgment, collaboration and accountability. We are intentionally lean and partner-led, ensuring clients work directly with experienced lawyers who take ownership, move quickly and align legal strategy with business objectives.

Our independence is central to this approach. It allows us to remain agile, avoid unnecessary conflicts and assemble the right teams for each matter without being weighed down by unnecessary scale. Clients come to Hughes Hubbard when the stakes are high and the path forward is not obvious – relying on our superior judgment, not just throwing resources at a problem for the sake of throwing resources.

We also prioritize collaboration over hierarchy, fostering true partnership where lawyers work closely across practices to solve complex problems. This structure enables sharper thinking, faster execution and produces consistently strong outcomes.

Ultimately, what sets Hughes Hubbard apart is not size, but the ability to bring experienced judgment, strategic focus and disciplined execution to the most demanding matters.

What strategic initiatives poise your firm for continued success?

Our strategy is anchored in delivering exemplary results for clients in our core areas of focus: litigation and disputes, finance, M&A and restructuring, where judgment and experience are critical. We continue to strengthen our teams in these areas and complementary ones, aligning our growth with where we see client need: handling the most complex, cross-border matters. By maintaining a lean, partner-led structure, we ensure senior lawyers remain deeply engaged, enabling faster decision-making, closer collaboration and consistently strong outcomes.

We're focused on areas where we have a clear competitive advantage rather than pursuing scale for its own sake. The result is a platform built around discipline, agility and accountability across practices.

To support this model, the firm has made targeted investments in technology and marketing, including a firmwide AI platform, brand refresh and new website. These initiatives enhance efficiency and collaboration across the firm.