

## Rising Star: Crowell & Moring's Michael Lieberman

*Law360, New York (August 3, 2017, 3:31 PM EDT)* - Crowell & Moring LLP's Michael Lieberman has taken on challenges in complex health care litigation including the defense of Blue Cross Blue Shield in a massive antitrust case, earning him a spot among the health care law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### **THE BIGGEST CASE OF HIS CAREER:**

Lieberman is currently working on sprawling multidistrict litigation alleging Blue Cross Blue Shield and its member plans have agreed not to compete with each other in their geographic markets.

The most challenging but also rewarding aspect of the multidistrict litigation is its size and scope, Lieberman said.

"With that many defendants and who's who of law firms involved on both the plaintiff side and the defense side, there's a regular challenge of trying to keep up with what's happening in the case," Lieberman said.

Lieberman also said he enjoys ensuring that his litigation strategy matches with the company's broader business strategy, which has happened in this case.

### **OTHER NOTABLE CASES:**

Lieberman and his team won summary judgment for a major health plan in arbitration brought by affiliates of a hospital operator, which had argued that the plan breached its contract by applying sequestration reductions to certain Medicare claims. The arbitrator ultimately agreed with Lieberman's arguments that the allegations were untimely.

**RISING**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**STAR**



**Michael  
Lieberman**  
Crowell & Moring

**Age:** 37

**Home base:** Washington, D.C.

**Position:** Partner

**Law school:** Georgetown  
University Law Center

**First job after law school:**  
Associate at Crowell & Moring

“We won summary judgment on that case, which had systemic impact for our client and really vindicated a position that they felt very strongly about,” Lieberman said.

Additionally, Lieberman was a lead attorney representing food-and-beverage giant Mondelez International Inc. in a suit brought by concrete company Tindall Corp. over whether an oral agreement and follow-up email formed a binding contract. The judge granted Mondelez summary judgment in March, determining that the companies hadn’t reached a formal deal.

***HIS BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS AN ATTORNEY:***

There’s a constant stream of information coming from cases, and Lieberman said he takes his work home with him both in terms of thinking about the lawsuits and making himself available to clients at all hours.

“I think to do the job well, my clients count on me to be available and to give my best advice,” Lieberman said. “And I think they are best served when I am thinking about the case with the same regularity and seriousness as they are.”

***WHAT MOTIVATES HIM:***

Lieberman is driven by the trust his clients place in him and his team to help solve their problems.

“I feel very lucky to have clients who are willing to come to us with their toughest challenges,” Lieberman said.

Health care law is especially complicated, and Lieberman enjoys helping his clients through some of their “thornier issues.”

The health care sector is “extremely active” and constantly changing, leading to some “really interesting litigation opportunities,” he said.

***ADVICE FOR YOUNG ATTORNEYS:***

Lieberman’s advice is twofold: Work hard and be passionate.

Being an attorney is not a typical 9-to-5 job, but with hard work and creative problem-solving, opportunities will present themselves, Lieberman said.

He also stressed the importance of understanding your clients’ goals and committing as much thought and care to the case as they do.

“Really developing a relationship of trust and partnership with clients is key to doing the job well, and, I think, the key to being happy doing it,” Lieberman said.

— *As told to Rachel Graf*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2017 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.*

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