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MVP: Greenberg Traurig's David Weinstein

By **Anna Scott Farrell**



Law360 (November 13, 2026, 4:00 PM EST) -- David Weinstein of Greenberg Traurig LLP's environmental and toxic tort practice successfully defended Lockheed Martin against $800 million in claims that working near its plant caused birth defects, protected a shopping center from accusations that chemicals from a dry cleaner caused cancer, and secured millions for a developer strong-armed into relinquishing lucrative parking rights, earning him a spot as one of the 2026 Law360 Environmental MVPs.

His biggest accomplishment of the past year:

The biggest win of the year for Weinstein, managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig's Tampa office, was the Lockheed Martin case. The contractor had been embroiled in litigation for years over claims by families that its weapons manufacturing plant in Orlando emitted substances that hurt babies born to people who worked nearby.

Weinstein led a nine-lawyer team over five weeks of trial that involved an examination of dozens of chemicals and dense testimony by many science and engineering experts.

On one side of the room sat the nation's largest defense contractor. On the other, three families, each of which had a child with serious congenital anomalies.

"It was a very challenging dynamic in terms of the perceived inequities," Weinstein said, noting that his team had to cross-examine the children's parents. "We were very careful to respect the parents and respect the children and respect the challenges they had to face, but at the same time taking on the science head on."

In the end, the jury deliberated for less than three hours and rejected every claim against Lockheed Martin, finding the weapons plant did not cause the birth defects. The company paid no settlements.

His biggest challenge:

Weinstein and his Tampa team relocated to Greenberg Traurig's Orlando office for about six weeks for the Lockheed Martin trial. It "was a very long time to live out of a suitcase and eat out of styrofoam," Weinstein said.

The team was under intense pressure, with the demands against the company before the trial exceeding a billion dollars, he said. Sleep was maybe six hours a night, he said. His birthday came and went. So did the birthdays of two other members of the legal team.

"It was a marathon in terms of stamina," he said, especially for younger attorneys on the team who hadn't been through that sort of challenge.

The lawyers weren't the only ones who relocated. Weinstein brought over a legal support specialist and rotated in information technology specialists.

"I'm a big believer in a self-contained team," he said. "We wanted the folks around us that we worked with every day and knew well."

His proudest moment:

One of his proudest moments was seeing how well the team performed under the pressure of a high-stakes trial that lasted for weeks.

"I don't think in six weeks I heard a raised voice from a Greenberg Traurig team member," he said. "That's saying a lot under the circumstances. It was great to see everybody come together like that and work as such a cohesive team."

In-house counsel from Lockheed Martin were an integral part of the team, too, and spent every day in the courtroom, Weinstein said.

"No lawyer is going to know the way Lockheed Martin operates better than Lockheed Martin, and we're never going to know their personnel the way they do," he said. "This hand-in-glove collaboration between outside counsel and inside counsel was essential, and it was terrific in this case."

Why he is an environmental attorney:

Weinstein said the work he does is important and has a big impact on society.

"Environmental decisions affect economics, they affect natural resources, they affect our communities in which we live and work," he said.

He summed up his work like this: "I take really big, complicated messes, and I clean them up."

Weinstein said he likes environmental cases because they involve multiple disciplines — law, science, business — and important issues such as climate change.

Even in the most challenging cases, Weinstein said he aims to ensure his clients are in compliance with environmental laws.

"If we feel strongly about something, especially assessment remediation, and we get client pushback, they're not going to be a client for very long," he said. "We're going to do the right thing, period."

His biggest motivation:

Challenging problems — and the people who trust him to solve them — motivate Weinstein.

"I'm fond of telling the junior lawyers, 'Anyone can do the easy ones,'" he said.

The clients who hire Greenberg Traurig and Weinstein's team are facing complex problems, often the most difficult in the life of a company, he said.

"I'm motivated by the people who trust me to be the tour guide through the minefield," he said.

His advice for junior attorneys:

Weinstein loves teaching — he is a black belt in karate and has coached martial arts for most of his life. He tells junior attorneys that practicing at a top law firm is like playing in the NFL: "Everybody's big, everybody's strong, everybody's fast."

Hard work is what will help new attorneys stand apart, he advises.

"Invest the time and effort to become an excellent lawyer," he tells them. "That investment will pay dividends throughout an entire career."

--As told to Anna Scott Farrell. Editing by Amy Rowe.

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2026 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 1,000 submissions.

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