

MVP: King & Spalding's Cory Hohnbaum

By Emily Brill

Law360 (November 25, 2025, 4:03 PM EST) -- Cory Hohnbaum of King & Spalding LLP helped Boehringer Ingelheim beat \$25 million in claims that the pharmaceutical company's heartburn medication caused prostate cancer, earning him a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 Trials MVPs.

His biggest accomplishment over the past year:

Hohnbaum co-led the King & Spalding team that piloted Boehringer Ingelheim through multiple trials over the past year, securing dismissal of claims that the company's Zantac medication caused prostate cancer.

A pair of trials that wrapped in August and September 2024 were declared mistrials after the jury failed to reach a verdict and the jury deadlocked, respectively. The consolidated retrial in February resulted in a win for Boehringer Ingelheim.

Hohnbaum delivered the closing argument, telling the jury that if they sided with the plaintiffs, they "would be the first group of people on the planet to conclude taking Zantac causes prostate cancer." Deliberations lasted just 90 minutes.

Hohnbaum attributes King & Spalding's success in the Boehringer Ingelheim trials to a wide pool of talented attorneys at the firm, saying he thinks more than 100 attorneys worked on the matter.

"We have lawyers with great science backgrounds, talented brief writers — all of those people contribute to the ultimate success of the trial," Hohnbaum said. "Any accomplishment in this setting is a shared one."

Why he's a trial attorney:

Hohnbaum, a partner in King & Spalding's trial and global disputes practice who has been lead counsel in more than 65 cases, said trial work appeals to him because he loves a challenge.

"No trial is the same," Hohnbaum said. "Every trial requires a certain amount of improvisation and



adjustment. It ultimately is unpredictable in many ways, and I enjoy the challenge of dealing with that unpredictability and managing through it."

In the Boehringer Ingelheim trial, for example, Hohnbaum had to take in a lot of scientific information and learn how to translate it for a jury. That type of challenge is satisfying, he said.

"And I like to win," he added.

His proudest moment in the past year:

Hohnbaum said that his proudest moment this year was getting the opportunity to mentor a promising crop of younger partners and associates at his firm.

"It gives me an enormous sense of pride to watch them hone their craft and become better trial lawyers," Hohnbaum said.

He added that these attorneys — partners Antonio Lewis, TaCara Harris and Patrick Price, and associates Andrew Whittaker, Lauren Lutton and Corinne Nabors — all had meaningful roles in earning wins for King & Spalding clients this year.

"They've been at the table, and the success wouldn't have happened without them," he said.

His advice for junior attorneys:

Hohnbaum said that when he's working with younger attorneys, he likes to tell them not to be afraid.

"If you want to live in a safe, cocooned world, do not become a trial lawyer," he said. "Don't be afraid. Take chances, calculated risks. It's OK to make mistakes."

He said he thinks young lawyers have a tendency to be overly cautious, but "that's not the way to develop long-term success."

"You don't want to be reckless, but you also don't want to just read the script," Hohnbaum said.

"Embrace the uncertainty, have confidence in your own abilities, and do the best you can."

--As told to Emily Brill. Editing by Kristen Becker.

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 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.