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## MICHAEL S. SHUSTER

HOLWELL SHUSTER & GOLDBERG LLP

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Mike Shuster had considered becoming a creative writer, “but common sense prevailed. My uncle had a litigation boutique in Montreal, so I went to law school and did what it was always assumed that I would do.

**TRAILS BLAZED** Shuster is proud of the way the firm has been built. “We set out with some guiding principles, including collegiality and being big enough to handle any matters but under 100 lawyers.” He focuses on cases with high value-added work. “We have been brought in to handle a number of big-ticket matters. For example, we are going to trial on October 30 on the biggest claim in the \$11 billion Lehman bankruptcy.” He has also secured recent wins at the Second Circuit in a case involving \$100 million in art looted by the Hungarian government during World War II and an appeal for investment funds holding defaulted Argentine debt. Shuster also represented Valassis Communications, Inc. in a billion-dollar antitrust claim against News Corp. and its subsidiaries. “We just got a decision transferring the case from federal court in Detroit to the Southern District of New York. The number of cases that plaintiffs have filed and then transferred are few and far between.

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Firms and matters are getting bigger. “Yet even as firms are getting bigger, there is a strong trend toward developing smaller, more focused boutiques. Another strong trend is in-house counsel and law firms devoting more resources to governmental and regulatory matters, domestically and globally.”