

# Susman Godfrey Secures 11th Circuit Win for Vitol, Inc. in \$10 Billion PDVSA US Litigation Trust Case

Susman Godfrey won a major victory in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals for its client, Vitol Inc., on March 18 when the appellate court unanimously affirmed a district court's dismissal of all claims brought against Vitol and other energy trading firms by the PDVSA US Litigation Trust, a New York-based entity that claimed to hold a valid assignment of claims from PDVSA, Venezuela's state-owned oil company.

The Eleventh Circuit upheld the district court's [2019 ruling](#) that the Trust lacked standing to bring the case, as its purported assignment of claims from PDVSA violated New York's champerty statute. [Neal Manne](#), [Alex Kaplan](#), [Michael Gervais](#), and [Michael Kelso](#) represented Vitol in the district court and on appeal.