

MVP: Pillsbury's David Dixon

By Tom Lotshaw

Law360 (November 19, 2025, 4:00 PM EST) -- David Dixon of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP helped companies mount successful protests that secured coveted awards for major, multiple-award U.S. government contracts for information technology support services, earning him a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 Government Contracts MVPs.

His biggest accomplishment:

A co-leader of Pillsbury's government contracts and disputes practice, Dixon represented Peregrine Digital Services LLC in a Court of Federal Claims case that challenged the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' decision to not tap it for an award under a Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation 2, or T4NG2, multiple-award contract that could be worth as much as \$61 billion in total.

According to Dixon, the VA deducted points from Peregrine's proposed self-score after evaluators refused to credit a past performance reference that involved a subcontractor's joint venture, even though Peregrine had proposed a contractor teaming arrangement with the company. The VA later made an award to Peregrine after it opted to reconsider its original award decisions.

Peregrine is now one of 33 awardees and is helping the VA defend its award decisions against subsequent protests. That litigation involves 16 protesters, nearly as many intervenors and a large team of government attorneys, according to Dixon. "It's one of the biggest cases at the court," he said.

The stakes are high for the companies involved, with the limited number of awardees able to vie for future task orders. Peregrine, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business joint venture, is "on pins and needles," Dixon said.

"This is life-changing for these companies," he said. "It's a really big deal for them, and we're really excited to have helped them in this way."



His biggest challenge:

Dixon said contract terminations have been the year's biggest challenge, with the practice working on significantly more of those than usual in the wake of actions undertaken by the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency.

Some clients that worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development — an agency that former DOGE leader Elon Musk boasted of feeding "into the wood chipper" earlier this year — have seen all their contracts terminated.

Such terminations take a significant toll on business owners and executives as well as employees who may no longer have jobs, Dixon said. "It's just really hard to watch your clients go through that from an emotional standpoint," he said. "That's certainly been the biggest challenge."

Other cases he has worked on:

Dixon led more than a dozen successful protests before the Court of Federal Claims and U.S. Government Accountability Office over the past year.

He helped Sparksoft Corp. challenge a \$34 million IT security services task order that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services awarded, with the GAO concluding that agency evaluators gave its key personnel a lower rating than the awardee even though they held an identical credential.

Dixon also helped DevTech Systems Inc. challenge \$65 million of blanket purchase agreement awards made to support U.S. Department of Labor workforce investment activities, with a GAO protest spurring the department to take corrective action and make an award to the company, which had primarily been a USAID contractor and had seen the bulk of its contracts terminated.

His proudest moment:

Dixon said his proudest moment came when he helped TekSynap Corp. protest a \$10 billion, multiple-award contract the U.S. Department of State issued for international IT services. The company, a former participant in the Small Business Administration's 8(a) development program for disadvantaged business owners, applied for awards in two of five possible service categories but did not receive either.

A government debriefing on the company's proposal didn't line up with what the company had actually submitted, however, and after a pair of protests were filed asserting that the department failed to consider information in its proposals, Dixon said government attorneys called to admit that mistakes were made and to ask if the company would be willing to drop its protests in exchange for awards.

"We were like, 'Yeah, I think we can do that,'" Dixon said. One of the service categories was limited to just six awardees, and the other to just four.

"It's always great when your client gets the award," Dixon added. "When the CEO gives you a call and is just super happy and super excited, that's definitely a highlight."

Why he's a government contracts attorney:

Dixon said he enjoys how the government contracts practice regularly raises new and interesting issues. "You could be working on satellites one day, then the next day you're working on an IT procurement,

and the next day disaster relief," he said. "There's always a new industry you're trying to figure out. There's always something new that keeps it interesting."

Dixon originally planned on becoming an international lawyer but quickly realized that wasn't for him. While pursuing a Master of Laws degree, he met up with a firm that needed an associate to assist with a protest over a weapons system procurement with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake. A few years later, Dixon found himself sold on the government contracts practice.

Dixon said he also appreciates the relationships that he gets to develop with clients, both old and new. Government contracts attorneys get to know new clients "very fast," he said, likening it to speed dating.

"You get your protest together and submit it within 10 days, sometimes in a much shorter period of time," Dixon said. "It's just a very intensive relationship starter."

--As told to Tom Lotshaw. Editing by Rich Mills.

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.