

“I was for a time unsure whether I wanted to be a corporate lawyer or a litigator,” says Dennis Lynch, “and I have managed to marry the two.”

Lynch, Class of 1984, is vice president and chief litigation counsel at Tyco International Corp., a multibillion-dollar company that sells fire safety and security systems. While he doesn't often appear in court, he oversees litigation in a broad range of areas, including tax, antitrust, securities law, government regulation, and consumer class actions.

Though he clerked for an appeals court judge in his first year out of law school and then spent eight years at a big law firm, he enjoys the responsibility of his current job. “If you're in-house,” he says, “especially in a senior position, you're part of

the management team. You're part of business decision-making, which often involves avoiding litigation.”

Many of the lawsuits Tyco has been unable to avoid have resulted from the doings of another Dennis—Dennis Kozlowski, the corporation's former CEO, who was convicted of grand larceny in 2005 for taking upward of \$100 million in unauthorized compensation, among other illegal activities. In the high-flying 1990s, an era of mergers and acquisitions mania and flamboyant CEOs, Kozlowski acquired hundreds of companies, including many whose business activities bore little relation to those of Tyco.

As part of the post-Kozlowski cleanup, Lynch has overseen a \$2.97 billion shareholder class action, which he calls “one of the largest class action suits in the history of the United States,” and an even bigger, \$4.1 billion bondholder class action that arose from the spinoff in 2007 of one of the companies acquired by the former CEO.

In addition to his oversight of the

litigation portfolio, Lynch also advises corporate managers on issues that can range from compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act to reaping the maximum benefit from Tyco's intellectual property. He likes the variety of an in-house counsel's duties and says his education at Maryland Carey Law prepared him well for it.

“I took five tax courses at Maryland, and right now I'm managing a very large piece of tax litigation for the company,” he says.

But his course load ranged as widely as the cases he now oversees, allowing him to deal with legal issues “that I might not have thought about for 10 years,” he says.

“I thought very highly of the education I got at Maryland,” he adds, “and have been impressed with classmates I've run into and what they do. I'd be happy to recommend a Maryland law grad for a position in any corporate counsel's office.” -DR

#### BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

## DENNIS Lynch '84

Vice President & Chief Litigation Counsel, Tyco International

