



THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2006

ALM

PROFILES IN POWER

The 100 most influential lawyers in America

A LAWYER LIKE DENNIS BLOCK can dream up new ways to work deals for his corporate clients that turn entire industries on their ear. Richard E. Wiley has as much to say about the telecommunications business as anyone in private life. Theodore B. Olson advocates before the nation's highest courts on the most pressing issues of the day.

Attorneys like these fit the dictionary definition of powerbroker, and all three take their bows as, for the first time in six years, we offer our take on the country's most influential lawyers.

Talk about simpler times. When last we tackled this project, the U.S. Supreme Court hadn't decided a close presidential election in favor of the candidate who won fewer popular votes; terrorists hadn't flown jet airliners into buildings in New York City and Washington; a global war on terror hadn't put U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq or landed "enemy combatants" in legal limbo in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba; and companies weren't facing a new wave of scrutiny in the wake of the record-breaking Enron Corp. and WorldCom Inc. bankruptcies.

We reviewed piles of nominations from readers and conducted our own research, looking for attorneys outside the government

with the clout to make big things happen. We were looking for lawyers who had a national impact in their fields and beyond, especially over the past five years—lawyers who have the power to shape public affairs, launch industries, shake things up and get things done. Simply holding a high office or position of authority was not enough, and judges and nonpracticing lawyers were not eligible. Not surprisingly, there were a number of repeats from our 2000 list: They were and continue to be influential.

Attorneys' private or professional woes accounted for some of our choices. Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. succumbed to cancer; Melvyn I. Weiss' firm and two of his partners were indicted for allegedly offering kickbacks to class action plaintiffs.

We note the emergence of bright young lawyers like Patricia Menendez-Cambo, at 39 the head of Greenberg Traurig's international practice, and Cindy Cohn, fighting for the soul of the Internet through the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

Profiles of the attorneys selected were contributed by Roger Adler, Amanda Bronstad, Erik Finkelstein, Peter Geier, Emily Heller, Lindsay Fortado, Leigh Jones and Pamela A. MacLean.

—MICHAEL MOLINE

PROFILES IN POWER

THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS IN AMERICA

Richard E. Climan **52, Cooley Godward, Palo Alto, Calif.**

ARCHDEALMAKER in Silicon Valley, the technology mergers and acquisitions practice group that he built over the past decade represents eBay Inc., Applied Materials Inc., Adobe Systems Inc. and Quest Software Inc., and negotiated some of the biggest technology M&A deals of 2005, including Adobe's \$3.4 billion acquisition of Macromedia Inc., eBay's \$3.9 billion acquisition of Skype Technologies and Oracle Corp.'s \$5.8 billion purchase of Siebel Systems; chairs the more than 1,000-strong Committee on Negotiated Acquisitions (affiliated with the ABA's Section of Business Law), a global forum for issues relevant to M&A practitioners. **NLJ**



This article is reprinted with permission from the June 19, 2006 edition of the NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL. © 2006 ALM Properties, Inc. All rights reserved. Further duplication without permission is prohibited. For information, contact ALM, Reprint Department at 800-888-8300 x6111 or visit www.almreprints.com. #005-06-06-0041

Cooley Godward LLP

www.cooley.com