LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Bruce Bilger took a chance on an energy law practice in Texas. Thirty years later, he has no regrets.

INSIDE VIEW:
An Executive Convicted of Fraud Tells His Side of the Story

Q&A:
Real Estate Star Jana Cohen Barbe on the Pleasures of Affordable Housing

LITIGATION:
The Tide Finally Turns in Securities Class Actions

GUIDE:
The Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers
After a second-year summer stint at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in 1979, Robert Spatt was ready to take the New York law scene by storm.

First, though, there was the matter of rent to pay on an overpriced New York apartment. He and his high school sweetheart, Lisa, had married before his third year at Michigan Law School, and after graduation they leased a small three-room apartment opposite Lincoln Center.

Small space, killer view.

His classmates took the summer off to study for the bar exam, and maybe climb the Alps, while Rob and Lisa took a week to move from Ann Arbor, Mich., to New York.

The next Monday, Spatt reported to work at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, juggling bar review with Manufacturers Hanover financings. Within a year, he was on the team handling Seagrams’ multi-billion dollar hostile bids for St. Joe Minerals Corp. and then for Conoco against DuPont. Beware the bite of the M&A bug.

A few more years and Spatt, as an associate representing the financial advisor, was part of watershed deals in M&A’s early history, including the Texaco battle with Pennzoil to buy Getty Oil and the Allied/Bendix/Martin Marietta “Pac-Man” deal.

The first billion-dollar leveraged buyout? Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.’s 1984 acquisition of Wometco, a diversified company whose holdings included cable operations and other media. At birth, Spatt’s son Mark was given an infant t-shirt, ‘Wometco Kid,’ commemorating his father’s Lamaze lapses.
Before you can say “God bless Ronald Reagan” - let alone attend a 10th year law school reunion - it's 1988 and Spatt, now a young partner, alongside his Simpson mentors Dick Beattie and Casey Cogut, is representing Kohlberg Kravis in its $25 billion acquisition of RJR Nabisco (page 458 of Barbarians at the Gate). Only recently was that storied deal topped as the largest buyout of all time.

“It was one of those rare times where if you were in the right place at the right time, as I was lucky enough to be, and got lots of firing-line experience and training, you got to negotiate merger agreements as a fifth-or sixth-year associate essentially on your own,” Spatt recalls of the 1980s, the era when acquisitions became hostile takeovers and princes became kings.

Not unlike today. The 500 dealmakers you'll read about on the pages that follow throw off billion-dollar deals like Barry Bonds hitting one over the fence. They've funded hundred-million-dollar Hawaiian military housing projects and the Hartford Group's new headquarters, taken Sabre Holdings private for $5 billion, redeveloped Howard Air Force Base on the banks of the Panama Canal, negotiated Westfield's San Francisco Emporium project, helped the CEO of Denver's Biomedical buy out the company, created California's largest education financing foundation, built the monorail and Paris hotel in Las Vegas, negotiated a four-country $1 billion swap for Royal Dutch Shell and Occidental Petroleum, worked through Bell Atlantic's $70 billion joint venture with Airtouch Vodaphone and brokered the $3.8 billion acquisition of LNR Property Group.

And that's just the 'A's.

They are the top dealmakers in America, encompassing lawyers at the top of the corporate worlds, from M&As and IPOs to project financings and real estate deals. We selected the Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers in America through our proprietary review process that incorporates CV analysis, client and peer evaluations, and interviews. These are the lawyers who make large deals happen through litigation and related skills.

As with our other Lawdragon guides to the best of the legal profession, the sole criteria at the end of the day for the Lawdragon 500 is professional excellence: Is this a lawyer you would want to represent your company in its most complicated and most important transactions? The dealmakers represent 152 law firms; some were nominated by their peers, clients or marketing directors, while others we found in interviews with practice leaders nationwide.

Like Spatt, fellow corporate veteran Kris Heinzelman wouldn't have known a dealmaker if one bit him when he entered law school at Yale. A native of Monroe, Wisc. - the Swiss Cheese Capital of the U.S. - he appeared as a soldier in Orestes and First Fairy in a production of e.e. cummings “him” while gaining his M.A. in philosophy at Brown.

He joined Cravath, Swaine & Moore in 1976 and went straight to work for Chemical Bank (now J.P. Morgan), the firm’s largest commercial banking client. His first M&A deal was in 1977, representing the prestigious Kuhn, Loeb & Co. in its merger with Lehman Brothers. Today, of course, he heads Cravath’s fabled corporate practice and is chief legal financier for the world’s biggest investment houses, including Credit Suisse, for whom he pulled off the largest unsolicited takeover in Australian history.

There’s no question deals will keep getting larger, Heinzelman says. He has no idea at the dollar valuation of the Kuhn Loeb deal, but acknowledges it “would be nothing” compared to today.

“The deals will keep getting larger. There’s no doubt about it,” says Heinzelman. In part, that’s because the law has become vastly more complex. “Like who heard of stock backdating before March 2006? It gets more complex because the world becomes more complex.”

Spatt knows that as well as anyone, having in the last couple of years worked on a laundry list of varied deals, including oil and gas purchases ranging from $1.5 billion to $35 billion, gold and copper deals ranging from $10 billion to $26 billion and multi-billion dollar deals in the healthcare, concrete, retail, computer and consumer products industries (all the while co-chairing for the past eight years the famed M&A forum, the Tulane Corporate Law Institute).

“The old limits do seem to have stretched,” he says. “The gold deals, the pig deals, the telecom deals, it keeps you interested.”

Though the deals are bigger in size, the skills these lawyers developed cutting their teeth in the frenzied 1980s are much the same. What the best dealmakers bring to the table is the ability to bring parties together and guide how a transaction gets done.

“It’s the techniques and understanding of the players and how the courts will react – what’s the game theory of getting from point A to point B,” Spatt says. “You need to be able to see the whole deal, how to get a win/win for everyone. We know the zone and may spend time haggling over a little part of the zone. But at the end of the day you need to recognize what the other side needs and if both can accomplish what they want, that’s when you can reach a successful deal.”

His views are getting a workout these days in a revival of an old field of interest: the print media. In 1993, he represented the New York Times when it bought the Boston Globe.

This year, he advised the board of directors of Dow Jones on the bid by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation.

It’s a nasty bug to shake.
Roger Aaron  Skadden Arps (New York) Allied Domecq, Lazard Freres, Mobil and U.S. Steel look to Aaron for steady guidance. Barry Abelson  Pepper Hamilton (Philadelphia) Abelson has proven quite able handling securities, M&A and venture capital transactions, representing issuers, underwriters and investors. James Alberg  Pillsbury Winthrop (Washington, DC) Alberg arranged the outsourcing of GE’s Australian and European data centers, plus slews of deals to create Merrill Lynch’s new broker workstations. Steven Alden  Debevoise (New York) Alden helped the Hartford Group finance its new headquarters, to say nothing of a $2.6 billion military housing project in Hawaii. Aloha! Frederick Alexander  Morris Nichols (Wilmington, Delaware) Alexander’s a great one to consult about Delaware general corporation law, especially “majority voting” rules. E. Richard Alhadeff  Stearns Weaver (Miami) Alhadeff provided all advice necessary for companies acquiring Miami Beach resorts, developing Orlando hotels and other standout Florida properties. Pinney Allen  Alston & Bird (Atlanta) Not only did she issue more than 100 transaction opinions in one year, she secured a unique tax ruling for a Dutch company making its first U.S. acquisition. Fred Allen  Allen Matkins (Los Angeles) Want to build an industrial park, golf course, resort or office building in SoCal? Allen can make it happen. David Allinson  Latham & Watkins (New York) Allinson is taking Sabre Holdings private for $5 billion, and earlier sold MediMedia USA to Vestar Capital Partners. Pedro Alvarez  White & Case (Miami) Howard Air Force Base on the banks of the Panama Canal will soon be bustling with a $700M redevelopment thanks to Alvarez.
Victor Alvarez  White & Case (Miami) He rings up billions in financings for Latin American interests, from Brazilian steel to Venezuelean telephone and Colombian wireless lines. Emilio Alvarez-Farre  White & Case (Miami) He led the team in the restructuring of Latin America’s largest paper company, Corporacion Durango, in a major test of Mexico’s new bankruptcy laws.

Craig Andrews  Heller Ehrman (San Diego) VCs and entrepreneurs appreciate Andrews, especially in the alternative energy, biotech, medical device and telecom fields. David Andril  Vinson & Elkins (Washington, DC) Andril helped spark innovations in developing fuel supply, power sales, and natural gas tolling deals for a New England merchant power plant. Rand April  Skadden Arps (Los Angeles) Rand has run MSD Capital’s purchase of Santa Monica’s Miramar Hotel, plus Westfield Corp.’s Emporium development in San Francisco. Betty Arkell  Holland & Hart (Denver) She helped the CEO of Denver Biomedical buy-out that company, and juggled four simultaneous deal-closings for Accellos Inc. Daniel Aronson  Bilzin Sumberg (Miami) He made it so CHELA became California’s largest education-financing foundation, then sold off CHELA’s financing arm for over $2.3 billion. David Arraij  Brownstein Hyatt (Las Vegas) When visiting Vegas, enjoy a crepe at Paris or ride the monorail between Bally’s and the MGM Grand — then thank Arraij, who made both projects happen. David Asmus  Baker Botts (Houston) Asmus greased the wheels for Royal Dutch/Shell and Occidental Petroleum’s four-country property swap worth $1 billion. Peter Atkins  Skadden Arps (New York) Atkins advised Warner-Lambert about M&A plans by American Home Products and Pfizer, Bell Atlantic about its $70 billion joint venture with AirTouch Vodafone, and more. Alcides Avila  Holland & Knight (Miami) Noted in banking and financing, Avila has also helped U.S. megacorporations handle Latin American acquisitions and joint ventures.
Jonathan Awner  Akerman Senterfitt (Miami) Awner’s no yawner for Republic Services Inc., a trash-management giant which he took public for $1.5 billion. Alan Axelrod  Bilzin Sumberg (Miami) Also a top adviser to All American Semiconductor and TradeStation Group, he brokered the $3.8 billion acquisition of LNR Property Group. Michael Baader  Venable (Baltimore) Baader gave his best toward the sale of Pfaltzgraf Inc. and Pimlico racetrack, and handled international hotel projects for Marriott International and Ritz-Carlton. Katharine Bachman  WilmerHale (Boston) She keeps it real as vice chair of the firm’s prestigious real estate practice and past president of the New England Women in Real Estate. Marcia Backus  Vinson & Elkins (Houston) Oil and gas properties worth $4 billion, coal gasification plants and a $900 million gas/hydro plant all happened because of Backus. C. Mark Baker  Fulbright & Jaworski (Houston) Energy-sector companies across four continents rely on Baker’s expertise. R. Franklin Balotti  Richards Layton (Wilmington, Delaware) Balotti’s work has practically defined directors’ fiduciary and corporate-control duties under Delaware law. Edward Barad  Brownstein Hyatt (Denver) He helps clients buy and sell office buildings, resorts, business parks and more from San Francisco to West Palm Beach. Jana Cohen Barbe  Sonnenschein Nath (Chicago) Tax credit investments, syndications, derivative swaps, reinsurance, Hope VI and Section 8 developments: nothing fazes her. Robert Barnett  Williams & Connolly (Washington, DC) Comcast, GE, McDonald’s, Revlon, Sunbeam and Toll Brothers all bank on Barnett. Michael Barrett  Perkins Coie (Seattle) Barrett overcame barriers to Starbucks Corp.’s new office headquarters; ditto the Hilton chain’s sale of the Seattle-Tacoma Doubletree Hotel.
Bonnie Barsamian Dechert (New York) She shaped H&E Equipment Services’s $226 million IPO, and floated $450 million in “covenant light” notes for Spanish Broadcasting System. Scott Barshay Cravath Swaine (New York) Barshay so impressed execs at King Pharmaceuticals with work for King’s banks, they tapped him directly. Result: a $4 billion deal with Mylan Laboratories. George Bason Davis Polk (New York) Bason’s a behemoth in financial M&A, matching J.P. Morgan with Chase and DLJ with Credit Suisse First Boston. William Baxley King & Spalding (Atlanta) Baxley’s been an insurance and M&A boon for Coca-Cola, Jefferson Pilot Corp., SunTrust Banks and others. Brian Beard Wilson Sonsini (Austin, Texas) He’s no slacker, though he reps Slacker Inc. as well as Learning Labs, Coherent Logics and Zilliant. Richard Beattie Simpson Thacher (New York) Beattie’s among the best, as proved by his work on J.P. Morgan Chase’s $58 billion acquisition of Bank One Corp. Jennifer Bellah Maguire Gibson Dunn (Los Angeles) Bellah Maguire brought great results to two recent PIPE transactions, and she’s helped Leonard Green & Partners form all four of its investment funds. Allan Beller Cleary Gottlieb (New York) Beller’s impressive for his IPO work, especially Goldman Sachs, Prudential Insurance Co. and Singapore Telecom. Serge Benchetrit Willkie Farr (New York) Another week, another $4 billion in deals for Benchetrit, who worked on the May private placement for Zurich Financial as well as a securities offering by Swiss Re. Stephen Besen Shearman & Sterling (New York) When Molson felt the urge to merge with Coors, or Florida Marlins owner John Henry wanted to buy the Red Sox, they called Besen. Mark Bettencourt Goodwin Proctor (Boston) An Internet, robotics and software-company wiz, Bettencourt betters the odds for Canadian and Irish tech companies to work with American counterparts.
Louis Bevilacqua  Cadwalader Wickersham (New York) Pfizer’s probably Bevilacqua’s biggest fan: He helped the conglomerate buy Pharmacia and Warner-Lambert, while selling its confectionary unit to Cadbury Schweppes.

John Bick  Davis Polk (New York) Bick has penned BrokerTec and TradeWeb’s impressive sales, plus Allegiance Healthcare’s merger with Cardinal Health.

Martin Bienenstock  Weil Gotshal (New York) He reps GM in Delphi’s bankruptcy, watched over Finova for Berkshire Hathaway and successfully reorganized Enron and Republic Steel over multiple objections.

Bruce Bilger  Vinson & Elkins (Houston) A big-time player in the energy industry with M&As and projects touching all regions of the globe.

Brian Bilzin  Bilzin Sumberg (Miami) Bilzin’s not worried if housing keeps cooling off: he reps America’s largest servicer of defaulted mortgage loans & REO properties.

Paul Bird  Debevoise & Plimpton (New York) Bird became "the word" for The Carlyle Group, after he helped them buy Atlas Roofing Corp. and grab a share of HD Supply from Home Depot.

Lewis Black  Morris Nichols (Wilmington, Delaware) His insights on recent amendments to Delaware law have proven so helpful, Japanese and Chinese business leaders demanded their own translations.

Stanley Blackburn  Kilpatrick Stockton (Atlanta) Blackburn kept clients such as BellSouth, Certegy, Georgia-Pacific and The Weather Channel in the black in deals worth up to 18 billion euros.

Franci Blassberg  Debevoise & Plimpton (New York) Blassberg blasted away obstacles for client Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, which bought ServiceMaster for $5.5 billion and a chunk of Hertz with other private investors.

Dennis Block  Cadwalader Wickersham (New York) He paved the way for Procter & Gamble to roll the dice on Gillette, and for Pepsico to swallow Quaker Oats.
Fred Blume  Blank Rome (Philadelphia)  Blume shepherded a global travel-services company in its sale to American Express, and guided a software provider through 20 acquisitions since 2003. Steven Bochner  Wilson Sonsini (Palo Alto, California)  Bochner built the Aruba Networks’ IPO. Now he’s piecing together a merger between Flextronics and Solectron. Richard Bohm  Debevoise & Plimpton (New York)  Clients from the AP and Greater Media to SV Investment Partners trust him with their most sensitive matters. Andrew Bor  Perkins Coie (Seattle)  Bor bypassed opposition to Esterline Technologies acquisitions, and floated IPOs for Burlington Resources, Starbucks and ZymoGenetics. Mark Borden  WilmerHale (Boston)  He’s handled more than 100 IPOs for companies and illustrious funders, most recently taking Starent Networks public above its bid price. Barbara Borden  Cooley Godward (San Diego)  She shines at joint ventures, M&A, private and public debt and equity securities offerings, and more. John Bostelman  Sullivan & Cromwell (New York)  Bostleman brings great enforcement, investigation and restatement experience for banking, entertainment, natural gas, publishing, retailing and steel-industry clients. Linda Bozung  DLA (Los Angeles)  Bozung has battled voluminous environmental requirements for a 3-million-sq.-ft.-plus mixed-use complex in Sacramento, and two projects of 1 million sq. ft. each in Southern California. Denis Braham  Winstead Sechrest (Houston)  A multitalented dealmaker in corporate and real estate, Braham is representing the Jones family on a new stadium for the Dallas Cowboys, and he helped them lure the 2011 Super Bowl there. Lawrence Braun  Sheppard Mullin (Los Angeles)  He sold Ryan Herco Products Corp. to Flow Solutions Holding, recapitalized Warren National University and represented the Rose Bowl in ongoing talks with the NFL.
Stephanie Breslow | Schulte Roth (New York) Breslow has every aspect of inheritance management covered, from fund formation issues to regulatory requirements — even new hybrid hedge/private equity funds. 

David Brittenham | Debevoise & Plimpton (New York) His forte is complex acquisition and leveraged financings, such as the $15 billion deal to acquire Hertz.


L. Edward Bryant | Drinker Biddle (Chicago) Bryant can do it all for healthcare companies: consolidation, hospital closures, special risk audits to address alleged Medicare fraud, and more.

Kevin Buckley | Hunton & Williams (Richmond, Virginia) He’s a premier packager of asset-based securities, combining $500 billion worth of mortgages and other loans selling off “tranches” with different risk ratings.

Michael Buckley | Jones Vargas (Las Vegas) Buckley beat all obstacles to the Citymark Juhl, Newport Lofts and Panorama Towers condo buildings in San Diego. 

Rebecca Burnham | Greenberg Traurig (Phoenix) Burnham burned the midnight oil for a 5,000-acre master planned community and a $500 million silicon chip plant. 


Robert Burwell | Latham & Watkins (San Diego) Bare Escentuals’s recapitalization, Design Within Reach’s IPO and Gen-Probe’s spinoff from Chugai Pharmaceutical happened because of Burwell. 

William Busch | Faegre & Benson (Minneapolis) Busch arranged big-ticker sales, such as Forward Communications Corp., CableScope Inc. and the Minnesota Vikings and Timberwolves franchises.

James Candler Dickinson Wright (Detroit) Candler set up development and financing for the MGM Grand Detroit casino, plus the acquisition and sale/leaseback financing for the Chrysler Technology Center. Richard Capelouto Simpson Thacher (Palo Alto, California) Capelouto proved capable via Intellisync’s sale to Nokia, American Media’s acquisition of Weider Publications and CNBC’s joint venture with Dow Jones. David Caplan Davis Polk (New York) When Caplan’s clients — which include Comcast, Harvard and Lockheed Martin — need transactional help, he’s all ears. C. Kent Carlson Kirkpatrick Lockhart (Seattle) Carlson solved problems that enabled the MSNBC joint venture, Philips Holding’s purchase of Optiva Corp. and the OnHealth Network/WebMD merger. William Carr Lewis Rice (Kansas City, Missouri) Carr’s clearly an expert at negotiating commercial leases, “big box” store deals, international real estate and more. Joseph Caverly Stone Pigman (New Orleans) Caverly’s calm and collected demeanor has led his firm to the top echelon of Louisiana real estate practice groups. L. Kay Chandler Cooley Godward (San Diego) Chandler’s the right choice for many life-science innovators, including Acadia Pharmaceuticals, Burnham Institute for Medical Research and Ocera Therapeutics. Carmen Chang Wilson Sonsini (Palo Alto, California) Ni hao, China! This one-stop shop for deals in China recently rang up a $124M public offering for Spreadtrum Communications with Morgan Stanley and Lehman.
Howard Chao  O’Melveny & Myers (Menlo Park, California) As China’s importance as a trading partner grows, so does the profile of this Mandarin-fluent maven. David Chapin  Ropes & Gray (Boston) Looking to sponsor a private equity buyout of someone big? Chapin’s handling the deals for Clear Channel, Dunkin Donuts and Michaels Stores. James Cheek  Bass Berry (Nashville) Cheek stood by HCA’s side as the company was acquired in a $33 billion leveraged buyout, the largest to that point. Paul Choi  Sidley Austin (Chicago) Choi championed West Corp.’s $4 billion recapitalization and First Data Corp.’s $14 billion spinoff of Western Union. John Chory  WilmerHale (Waltham, Massachusetts) This former Army Intelligence Officer also has the insight for venture companies including A123, Akamai and Akorn. Wilson Chu  Haynes and Boone (Dallas) Chu’s a champ in automotive, energy, healthcare and tech transactions, especially those requiring a Pacific Rim perspective. Philip Claverie  Phelps Dunbar (New Orleans) Claverie cleared $600 million in financing for an offshore energy concern, and helped a national drugstore chain finance or lease 20-plus store locations. Jay Clayton  Sullivan & Cromwell (New York) He knows how to hammer out deals involving hedge funds, cross-border M&A and global best practices. Richard Climan  Cooley Godward (Palo Alto, California) Multi-billion-dollar cyberdeals? No problem for this titan of technology M&A. Rachel Coan  Morrison & Foerster (New York) Coan came up with $500 million in senior and subordinated notes for Aon Corp., and guided the issuance of $3 billion worth of securitized insurance premium finance programs.
Michael Conza  Bingham McCutchen (Boston) Conza cooked up huge helpings of funds for GameLogic, Groove Mobile, JBoss and Kayak Software. Bryson Cook  Venable (Baltimore) Cook concocted a manufacturing company’s family buyout and helped create a Dutch holding company to reduce a multinational’s worldwide taxes. Anthony Correro  Correro Fishman (New Orleans) This buyout bigshot arranged Bank One buying First Commerce Corp. for $3.1 billion, and Tidewater Inc. washing over Zapata Corp.

Stephen Cowan  DLA Piper (San Francisco) Cowan saw to the sale of San Francisco’s Embarcadero Center for $1.2 billion, as well as fresh financing for the Venetian hotels in Las Vegas and Macau. Cameron Cowan  Orrick Herrington (Washington, DC) Cowan’s experience with MBS and CDO transactions has taken him across three continents, working with arrangers, conduits, credit enhancers and issuers alike. Meredith Cross  WilmerHale (Washington, DC) Companies know not to Cross the advice given by this former chief counsel of the SEC’s corporate finance division. James Curtiss  Winston & Strawn (Washington, DC) Cameco Corp., Exelon, Fansteel Inc., Louisiana Energy Services, Power Resources Inc. and Urenco count on Curtiss.

John D’Alimonte  Willkie Farr (New York) He’s worked on $9B in deals just since March, most recently a $900M offering for Level 3, an international communications and information company. Christa D’Alimonte  Shearman & Sterling (New York) She shouldered deals for many, but especially Viacom: its split into two companies, its selloff of Blockbuster and four acquisitions by MTV Networks. Bruce Dallas  Davis Polk (Menlo Park, California) Dallas dealt out $9.3 billion in Comcast bonds, plus an innovative spin-out of Chipotle Mexican Restaurants from McDonalds.
Margaret Davenport
Debevoise & Plimpton (New York)
Davenport won the gold Star from Teachers’ Private Capital, after helping the fund buy Doane Pet Care, then resell it to Mars Inc. Gordon Davidson
Fenwick & West (Mountain View, California)
Seasoned by 30+ public offerings, Davidson gets it done for Cisco, Diamond Foods, VeriSign and many more. Roger Davis
Orrick Herrington (San Francisco)
Davis leads — growing his department from 12 attorneys to 90 — by the example set by his pace of 40 transaction deals per year. Warren de Wied
Fried Frank (New York)
He brought Burlington Resources together with ConocoPhillips in a $35 billion merger, and advised Kirk Kerkorian’s Tracinda Corp. about how to handle its GM investment. Laurence Deitch
Bodman (Detroit)
Known for his gaming-law expertise, Deitch also does well in real estate deals, joint ventures and cross-border transactions. Robert DeLaMater
Sullivan & Cromwell (New York)
When it comes to weighing the relative strengths of American, Chinese and European capital markets, few can match DeLaMater. Elizabeth Dellinger
Benesch Friedlander (Cleveland)
She’s solid across-the-board for private equity, securities and loan transactions, including fund formation, recapitalization and workouts. Paul DeMuro
Latham & Watkins (Los Angeles)
Backed by his MBA and CPA license, DeMuro’s downright good for hospitals, HMOs, physician groups and integrated health systems. Alan Denenberg
Davis Polk (Menlo Park, California)
AMC, Cisco, Liberty Mutual and Wet Seal all turned to Denenberg to handle their high-yield debt and equity offerings. Robert Denham
Munger Tolles (Los Angeles)
Denham sweated the details for Berkshire Hathaway’s purchase of Iscar, and the Power family’s sale of J.D. Power and Associates.
Richard Denmon | Carlton Fields (Tampa, Florida) | Denmon’s determination has seen him through numerous recapitalizations, redemptions and reorganizations for financial clients. Karen Dennison | Hale Lane (Las Vegas) | She’s more than sufficient for lenders and developers involved with golf course communities, time share developments, condo-hotels and power plant facilities.

Scott Dettmer | Gunderson Dettmer (Menlo Park, California) | Long considered one of Silicon Valley’s finest, Dettmer demystifies matters for venture funds and institutional investors. Joyce Dixon | Blackwell Sanders (Omaha, Nebraska) | Either a lender or a borrower be, as long as Dixon calls the shots — she has already handled financing projects totalling $20 billion.


Nathaniel Doliner | Carlton Fields (Tampa, Florida) | Doliner gets it done for clients acquiring manufacturers, software firms, behavioral healthcare companies and others. Albert Dotson | Bilzin Sumberg (Miami) | Dotson dove in and untangled a $200 million canal dredging project involving FEMA, Miami-Dade County and Subaqueous Services Inc. James Doub | Miles & Stockbridge (Baltimore) | Doub prides himself on advising clients on daily contracting, finance, strategic planning, M&A and integration of various business units.
Jay Epstien  DLA Piper (Washington, DC) Even law firms need lawyers to nail down primo space for their D.C. offices. Cadwalader, Greenberg Traurig and Epstien’s own DLA Piper trusted him to get it done.

John Ettinger  Davis Polk (New York) Ettinger eased Morgan Stanley’s acquisition of Van Kampen American Capital, as well as its merger with Dean Witter.

Kevin Evanich  Kirkland & Ellis (Chicago) Evanich’s whirlwind four-day effort closed acquisition of a leading consumer products marketer, letting his client seal the deal before competitors could react.

Lester Fagen  Goulston Storrs (Boston) You’re a Danish scanning-tech company that wants to buy a Boston-area 3D-software firm? No problem — at least, not for Fagen.

Bob Faiss  Lionel Sawyer (Las Vegas) He helped MGM Mirage buy the Mandalay Resort Group for $7.9 billion, and set the wheels in motion for MGM’s $1.1 billion casino in Macau.

Scott Falk  Kirkland & Ellis (Chicago) Falk is focused on tender and exchange offers, divestitures of subsidiaries, and inbound and out-bound cross-border investments.

Emanuel Faust  Dickstein Shapiro (Washington, DC) Faust set up auction and divesture deals for energy plants worth $5 billion.

Phil Feder  Paul Hastings (Los Angeles) Feder found ways for Morgan Stanley to buy Glenborough Realty Trust, and for Lehman Bros. to land $500 million to develop the former El Toro air station.

Deborah Feinstein  Arnold & Porter (Washington, DC) She lined up Boston Scientific’s $27 billion acquisition of Guidant, selling off the target’s endovascular solutions while keeping its drug-eluting stents.

Lew Feldman  Goodwin Proctor (Los Angeles) It all adds up: $50 billion in Feldman-led real estate deals, including master-planned communities, retail malls and brownfield remediation projects.

Michael Feldman  Proskauer Rose (New York) When Feldman plans, he plans big: a casino/four-hotel/retail village project in the Bahamas, a hotel/condo resort in Telluride, and so on.
Edwin Feo  Milbank Tweed (Los Angeles) Feo finalized the $1.8 billion Chicago Skyway deal, plus he financed Three Winds’ renewable-energy portfolio. Charles Ferrell Faegre & Benson (Minneapolis) Ferrell led the development and operation of office buildings, mixed-use and hotels across Minnesota, Iowa and Colorado. Allen Finkelson Cravath Swaine (New York) To confirm his influence, just flip on a CBS show; Finkelson added the fine touches that allow the network to merge with Viacom. Jesse Finkelstein Richards Layton (Wilmington, Delaware) Finkelstein flourished with KKR’s leveraged buyout of HCA, plus Readers Digest’s sale to Ripplewood Holdings. John Finley Simpson Thacher (New York) Finley put the final touches on CBS’s sale of Paramount Parks, the Kmart/Sears merger and Toys ‘R Us’s sale to private equity. Next up: the announced sale of Claire’s Stores. Morton Fisher Ballard Spahr (Baltimore) Fisher’s just fine for department stores, big-box tenants, lenders, developers and other real estate clients. Louis Fishman Correro Fishman (New Orleans) Fishman spawned $3 billion in First National Bank of Commerce banknotes, plus Doane Products Co’s sale to private investors. Keith Flaum Cooley Godward (Palo Alto, California) A seasoned vet at megamergers, Flaum added his special touch to Siebel Systems’ sale to Oracle Corp. Gary Fluhrer Foster Pepper (Seattle) Fluhrer’s a force in numerous real estate sectors, having worked on apartment buildings, healthcare facilities, office high-rises and shopping centers across six states. J. Nixon Fox Vinson & Elkins (Austin, Texas) Fox fleshed out the $650 million acquisition of U.S.-based Dupont Photomask by the Japanese company Toppan Printing Co.
Stephen Fraidin  Kirkland & Ellis (New York) Fraidin’s a pioneer in advising leveraged-buyout funds, having counseled Forstmann Little & Co.’s LBO arm since its inception. Steven Freedman  Schulte Roth (New York) Freedman liberated clients from worrying about Anchor Glass Container Corp.’s prepackaged deal, the auction sale of Arthur Little and the acquisitions of National Rental Cars. Dennis Friedman  Gibson Dunn (New York) Friedman brings his prior experience as an investment banker to bear on conflicts of interest, recapitalizations and unsolicited takeover offers. John Frisch  Miles & Stockbridge (Baltimore) Lauded in the life science sector, Frisch has handled business acquisitions across America, as well as various international businesses’ dispositions. Joseph Frumkin  Sullivan & Cromwell (New York) Endesa, General Growth, RR Donnelley, SBC Communications, Tenaris, TXU and USF found Frumkin’s advice critically important. Keith Fullenweider  Vinson & Elkins (Houston) BG North America, Enterprise Products Partners, KKR, Reservoir Capital Partners and Texas Pacific Group have full faith in Fullenweider. John Gaffney  Cravath Swaine (New York) First Solar called on Gaffney for its $460-million IPO — the largest ever for a solar energy company — as did the underwriters in Switch and Data’s $200 million IPO. Robert Gage  Covington & Burling (Washington, DC) The Washington Nationals found Gage a go-to guy for their ballpark, as did the developers of Raleigh’s Olde Town sector. Greg Gallo  DLA Piper (Palo Alto, California) Also favored by underwriters, Gallo has honed his technology niche with work for Extreme Networks, Protein Design Labs and Salesforce.com. Sergio Galvis  Sullivan & Cromwell (New York) Galvis speaks fluent M&A-ese, as Anglo American, Bancolombia, Camargo Corrêa, GP Investimentos and the Panama Canal Authority can attest.
Lyle Ganske  Jones Day (Cleveland) Ganske was on call when Nextel merged with Sprint and when Federated Department Stores acquired the May store chain. Philip Garon  Faegre & Benson (Minneapolis) He oversaw Target’s sale of its Marshall Fields and Mervyns arms, plus International Multifoods’ sale to The J.M. Smucker Co. Steven Gartner  Willkie Farr (New York) He’s past the century mark on private equity deals, selling iconic baseball card maker Topps Co. to Tornante & Madison Dearborn and helping Warburg Pincus in the $8.3B Aramark merger. Philip Gelston  Cravath Swaine (New York) Gelston counseled BAE Systems in its $4.1-billion acquisition of Armor Holdings Inc. and The Tengelmann Group in connection with a $1.3 billion purchase of Pathmark Stores. Mark Gentile  Richards Layton (Wilmington, Delaware) A leading expert on Delaware corporate law, Gentile firmly counsels corporations, officers, directors and stockholders regarding acquisitions, divestitures, mergers and recapitalizations. Mark Gerstein  Latham & Watkins (Chicago) Gerstein got Koch Industries together with Georgia Pacific in a $22 billion deal, and handled Marriott’s $4.2 billion purchase of Starwood Hotels’s REIT. Glenn Gerstell  Milbank Tweed (Washington, DC) Gerstell got $500 million in fresh money for Brazilian telecom GVT, plus $210 million for Asian satellite company ProtoStar Inc. Michael Gillespie  Debevoise (New York) Gillespie aided the Jim Henson Co. in selling The Muppets to Walt Disney, and guided the merger of pay-TV platforms DirecTV Brasil and Sky Brasil. Michael Glazer  Goodwin Proctor (Boston) Glazer greased the wheels for the $5.4 billion Stuyvesant Village and Peter Cooper Town real estate venture. Louis Goldberg  Davis Polk (New York) He’s an MVP for CVS, after guiding the company’s merger with Caremark, acquisition of Eckerd’s, spinoff of Linens ’n Things, and more.
Lawdragon 500

Roger Ritt
Richard Goldberg Ballard Spahr (Philadelphia) He made key arrangements for New Jersey’s largest mall, and helped morph the PSFS office building into a state-of-the-art hotel. Marcia Goldstein Weil Gotshal (New York) She’s golden for turning around troubled companies such as Atkins Nutritionals, BearingPoint, Parmalat and WorldCom. John Good Bass Berry (Memphis, Tennessee) Good overachieves for underwriters; just ask Columbia Equity Trust, Education Realty Trust or Gladstone Investment Corp. Jodi Goodheart Jones Vargas (Las Vegas) Goodheart’s great work won her a seat at the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, one of only seven Nevada attorneys so honored. Stephen Goodman Morgan Lewis (Philadelphia) Goodman’s proven stellar for startups, such as AirClic, CDnow, ExcelleRx, ICG Commerce and VerticalNet. Eugene Goodwillie White & Case (New York) This law firm leader advises the Sultanate of Oman on its massive $9B LNG development, as well as energy lenders from Kutubu to Cameroon. Michael Goodwin Arnold & Porter (Washington, DC) Goodwin’s great for Anacostia Waterfront Corp., which works to develop the land around the Washington Nationals’ planned ballpark. George Goolsby Baker Botts (Houston) Goolsby captained the development of two “early oil” pipelines running from the Caspian Sea out to Black Sea markets. David Gordon Latham & Watkins (New York) Gordon finds the “now” tech sectors — fiber-optic cable in the 1990s, biomass and alternative energy in the 2000s — and energizes their deals. J. Warren Gorrell Hogan & Hartson (Washington, DC) Gorrell grafts together superdeals, such as the $8.9 billion acquisition of Trizec Properties, Snyder Communications’ $2.1 billion purchase by Havas of France, and more. Robert Grammig Holland & Knight (Tampa, Florida) He represented Harris Corp. in its purchase of Multimax, and helped Drummond Co. acquire Ferrocarriles del Norte del Colombia.
Mary-Laura Greely Mintz Levin (Boston) She arranged $600 million in financing for International Shipping Enterprises, and helped North Star Chemicals attract 3M to acquire it. Jonathan Green Milbank Tweed (New York) Green was good-to-go for the $1.5 billion purchase of Transselect, and Brascan’s acquisition of 72 hydroelectric plants in New York. Joel Greenberg Kaye Scholer (New York) Domestic or cross-border, merger or acquisition, private or public — Greenberg can do ‘em all. Mark Greene Cravath Swaine (New York) The perennial cross-continental all-star handled Mylan Laboratories’ $6.7 billion purchase of Merck KGaA and Novartis AG’s sale of its Gerber business to Nestlé S.A. for $5.5 billion. John Grenier Bradley Arant (Birmingham, Alabama) He handled Hyundai’s process in picking an Alabama auto-plant site, and guided Revco Drugs in its hostile tender offer for Big B Drugs. Joseph Gromacki Jenner & Block (Chicago) Gromacki merged WPS Resources with Peoples Energy, and demutualized the Chicago Board of Trade, then prompted its $200 million IPO. John Grossbauer Potter Anderson (Wilmington, Delaware) He crossed all T’s and dotted all I’s for AmeriTrade’s acquisition of TD Waterhouse, Knight-Ridder’s purchase by McClatchy Co. and Premium Standard Farms’ proposed sale to Smithfield Foods. Daryn Grossman Proskauer Rose (New York) She has done great work for GMAC, Microsoft, Standard & Poors and schools ranging from the University of Bath to Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. David Guedry Jones Day (Dallas) Guedry’s golden for EDS, Perot Systems Corp., CGI, the Houston Independent School District and more. Guy Guinn Squire Sanders (Cleveland) Guinn has represented syndicate agents in syndicated-credit deals topping $1.8 billion.
Bob Gunderson  Gunderson Dettmer (Menlo Park, California) Gunderson’s great as principal outside counsel for leading VC firms and investment banks. Richard Hall  Cravath Swaine (New York) Hall handled Time Warner’s $5-billion debt offering and repped Basic Element in a subsidiary’s $1.5 billion investment in Magna International. Mark Hamel  Dorsey & Whitney (Minneapolis) Hamel handled SuperValu’s $17.4 billion purchase of Albertsons groceries, which involved 1,400 owned and leased properties across 27 states. Gregg Harris  Fulbright & Jaworski (Washington, DC) Harris helped take a Kenyan-Ugandan railway private, and represents lenders financing a diesel power-plant and pipeline in Senegal. David Heiman  Jones Day (Cleveland) Carmike Cinemas, Olympia & York, Pillowtex Corp. and USG Corp. gladly heeded Heiman’s bankruptcy advice. Benjamin Heineman  WilmerHale (Washington, DC) He’s not Jack Welch, but Heineman was his top lawyer, so when he speaks on fusing performance and integrity, lawyers listen. Kris Heinzelman  Cravath Swaine (New York) Have some high-yield bonds to sell? Better hope Heinzelman is by your side. Susan Hendrickson  Arnold & Porter (McLean, Virginia) “You’ve got deals” — that’s what America Online, plus throngs of other technology companies, have heard from Hendrickson. Edward Herlihy  Wachtell Lipton (New York) Herlihy handled Express Script’s acquisition of Caremark RX, the IPO of KBW Inc., and many more. Bruce Herzog  Vinson & Elkins (Houston) Herzog has heaps of advice about financings and liquidity transactions, fund formation projects, LBOs, portfolio company acquisitions and managing liability issues.
John Hession  McDermott Will (Boston) Hession’s a heavyweight for financings in the electronic-commerce, life science, medical device and software fields. Paul Hilton  Hogan & Hartson (Denver) Going-private transactions, IPOs, tender offers and Rule 144A deals: These are Hilton’s home fields, and he plays for keeps. William Hinman  Simpson Thacher (Palo Alto, California) Hinman’s the heavy-hitter behind Google acquiring YouTube, Seagate Technology’s IPO and Veritas Software’s merger with Symantec. William Hirschberg  Shearman & Sterling (New York) Hirschberg hooked up seven separate equity funds to buy SunGard Data Systems, plus $1.1 billion for Cricket Communications and $1 billion for Sensata.
Phil Horowitz  Venable (Washington, DC) Horowitz helped the SEC secure new headquarters, and guided Westfield Realty’s sale of 12 Northern Virginia buildings worth $1.05 billion. L. Francis Huck  Simpson Thacher (New York) Huck handled $4.45 billion in J.P. Morgan credit lines, which enabled Apollo to purchase Realogy Corp. Marshall Huebner  Davis Polk (New York) Huebner’s bankruptcy team poured more than 100,000 hours over three years into bringing Delta Air Lines successfully out of Chapter 11. James Hughey  Balch & Bingham (Birmingham, Alabama) He represented Compass Bancshares in its $9.6 billion cash-and-stock sale, plus he wrangled a Mercedes Benz auto plant for Alabama. Robert Insolia  Goodwin Proctor (New York) Insolia’s the insider of choice for mezzanine financings, real estate investment trust IPOs and the creation of commingled real estate funds. Valerie Jacob  Fried Frank (New York) This firm chairperson aided ANC Rental Corp. in its spinoff from AutoNation and Procter & Gamble in raising $4.5 billion to acquire Clairol.
Leslie Jay  Orrick Herrington (San Francisco) Whether in Europe or San Francisco, listen to what Jay has to say about compliance, disclosure and officer/director issues. Sarkis Jebejian  Cravath Swaine (New York) Jebejian handled Abbott Laboratories’ acquisition of Kos Pharmaceuticals, and aided Florida Power & Light in its proposed merger with Constellation Energy. B. Gerald Johnson  Kirkpatrick Lockhart (Seattle) Johnson’s credited with revitalizing Seattle’s retail core via relocating Nordstrom’s flagship store, plus the development of Tacoma’s waterfront, Safeco Field and more. Christopher Johnson  Squire Sanders (Phoenix) Johnson juggled many details on a $2.5 billion trucking company LBO, disposition of $2.5 billion of power-plant projects, and more. John Johnston  Morris Nichols (Wilmington, Delaware) Johnston’s just the ticket for corporations seeking to build their deals in ways to avoid potential Delaware fiduciary or statutory obstacles. Martha Jordan  Latham & Watkins (Los Angeles) Jordan’s judicious nature enabled the reorganization of Red Lion Hotels, the sale of Wine World Estates and the acquisition of Orchard Supply Hardware. Steve Kaplan  Arnold & Porter (Washington, DC) Kaplan captured Allfirst Financial ($3 billion) for M&T Bank Corp., and CSX Corp.’s $1.15 billion sale of assets to Dubai Port International. Richard Katcher  Wachtell Lipton (New York) The 40-plus year veteran has maintained a diverse client base with deals in recent years for AT&T, Engelhard and Sports Authority. David Katz  Wachtell Lipton (New York) This dynamo merged Lucent Technologies with Alcatel, and empowered McClatchy Co. to buy Knight-Ridder. Kit Kaufman  Latham & Watkins (Menlo Park, California) Advanced Micro Devices, the Coral Fund, Mayfield Fund and Next Level Communications have all prospered under Kaufman’s care.
Stanley Keller Edwards Angell (Boston) Keller gives compelling advice for Genzyme, Lamar Advertising, Teco Energy and many others. Jay Kelley Vinson & Elkins (Houston) Kelley was key for BG Group in its recent agreement to supply, and take partial ownership of, Chile’s first liquefied natural gas import terminal. Kevin Kelley Gardere (Dallas) American Airlines, Cisco Systems and Lone Star Opportunity Fund consider Kelley a keeper. Mark Kelly Vinson & Elkins (Houston) Kelly’s mix of big M&As and IPOs transcends his firm’s energy focus and touches a diverse range of public and private companies. William Kelly Davis Polk (Menlo Park, California) Kelly’s cyberstrengths paved the way for Oracle to acquire PeopleSoft, and for Yahoo to yoke Inktomi. Linda Kelso Foley & Lardner (Jacksonville, Florida) Kelso clears the decks for hedge funds, REITs and other complicated enterprises. Michael Kennedy O’Melveny & Myers (San Francisco) Kennedy’s frequently consulted about hostile transactions and proxy fights, after guiding complex matters in the automotive, building products, media and technology fields. Tom Kennedy Skadden Arps (New York) Kennedy cooked up AOL’s acquisition of Netscape, the formation of TradeWeb and the “prenegotiated” bankruptcy of NTL Inc. Nancy Kennerly Kennerly Lamishaw (Los Angeles) Her project list ranges from regional malls and power centers to urban in-fill developments and resort/recreation properties. Peter Kerman Latham & Watkins (Menlo Park, California) He works handsomely for strategic buyers, investment banks and VC firms regarding acquisitions and dispositions of companies, with a strong technology emphasis. Kurt Kicklighter Luce Forward (San Diego) Kicklighter led a “community development” IPO by the owners of Market Creek Plaza, a Southeast San Diego commercial and cultural center.
Christopher Lause  Bryan Cave (Phoenix) Lause laid down slick moves in handling Collective Licensing International in its acquisition of Lifestyle Brands Ltd. Joe Leccese  Proskauer Rose (New York) Leccese guided the New Jersey Devils in all aspects of developing their new Prudential Center arena, and represented the Lerner family in buying the Washington Nationals. John LeClaire  Goodwin Proctor (Boston) LeClaire specializes in private equity work for consumer products, financial services, healthcare and technology/information companies. Kenneth Lefkowitz  Hughes Hubbard (New York) He instructed Educate Inc. to take a $535 million buyout, and lined up $25.8 million for Rembrandt’s rendition of Saint James the Greater. Richard Leisner  Trenam Kemker (Tampa, Florida) Leisner can guide companies from startup to selloff and everything in between, including ongoing SEC reporting, executive pay and benefits, M&A and takeover contests. Brian Leitch  Arnold & Porter (Denver) Leitch has given flight to many top airline restructurings, including US Airways, America West, Delta, Northwest and United. Daniel Lennon  Latham & Watkins (Washington, DC) Lennon’s laudable for The Carlyle Group, guiding its $22 billion LBO of Kinder Morgan and $1.85 billion sale of Rexnord to Apollo Management. Don Lents  Bryan Cave (St. Louis) Lents led Anheuser-Busch through its $1 billion investment in Grupo Modelo, and he guided Emerson Electric Co. in numerous acquisitions and spinoffs. Theodore Lenz  Waller Lansden (Nashville) Lenz recently led a publicly-traded REIT in senior-notes offerings totalling $600 million, as well as a $145 million common stock offering. Jack Levin  Kirkland & Ellis (Chicago) Trained as a litigator who argued eight cases before SCOTUS, Levin has constructed debt and equity transactions topping $7 billion.
Denise Lewis Honigman Miller (Detroit) Compuware’s new $350 million headquarters leads her deals list, which also includes shopping centers, hospitals and apartment complexes. Victor Lewkow Cleary Gottlieb (New York) Lewkow laid the groundwork for Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria to buy Compass Bancshares. Next up: helping the NYSE and Euronext create the first transatlantic securities exchange. James Leyden Richards Layton (Wilmington, Delaware) Co-author of The Transactional Lawyer’s Deskbook, Leyden enlightens Delaware limited liability companies, limited and general partnerships, trusts and corporations. Bruce Lieb Proskauer Rose (New York) Morgan Chase’s consigliere for nearly 20 years, Lieb also advises Charterhouse Group International, Hyperion Partners and Ranieri & Co. Michael Liever Orrick Herrington (San Francisco) Liever applies leverage on behalf of Cabot Industrial Trust, CalPERS, New York Life Insurance Company, RREEF America and numerous county-government pension funds. Jim Linfield Cooley Godward (Broomfield, Colorado) Linfield brings a distinctive POV to his practice; he previously served as CFO/general counsel to Somatogen, which he took public in 1991. Andrew Lipman Bingham McCutchen (Washington, DC) Long-distance telecom carriers, Internet companies, wireless startups, satellite services: Lipman’s good with all of these. Martin Lipton Wachtell Lipton (New York) The legendary M&A sage and poison-pill inventor continues to handle the corporate matters of Disney, Morgan Stanley and other giants. Frederick Lowinger Sidley Austin (Chicago) Lowinger’s lauded for the sale of Maverick Tube Corporation to Tenaris, Aon’s acquisition of Alexander & Alexander and the LBO of Monsanto’s consumer foods division. Kara MacCullough Akerman Senterfitt (Miami) She guided Technical Olympic USA in issuing stock and notes worth $1.25 billion, and counseled SBA Communications in its $1 billion acquisition of AAT Communications.
John Madden Shearman & Sterling (New York) Madden led winning teams in VNU’s purchase of ACNielsen, Santa Fe International’s merger with Global Marine and Benjamin Moore & Co.’s sale to Berkshire Hathaway. Jonathan Maizel Milbank Tweed (Washington, DC) Maizel’s monumental deals include a $1.3 billion expansion of Nigerian natural gas facilities and privatizing Chavez International Airport in Peru. Thaddeus Malik Jenner & Block (Chicago) Malik’s seasoned at six- to 10-figure mergers, joint ventures and strategic investments across Europe, Australia and China. Rick Mallory Allen Matkins (San Francisco) Mallory’s the main man for Bay Area landlords, whether they prefer straight leases, lease equity or lease-takeover transactions. Marilyn Maloney Liskow & Lewis (Houston) While she’s known largely for handling energy loans, Maloney’s also marvelous at transactions covering mid-stream assets and construction of oil/gas pipelines. Bruce Mann Morrison & Foerster (San Francisco) After incubating the megasuccess of Intel, Mann has molded more than 200 IPOs in biotech, computer and software companies. Edgar Marston Bracewell Giuliani (Houston) Marston has made sense for clients in the biotech, cement production, heating/AC manufacturing and telecom industries for more than 40 years. Katharine Martin Wilson Sonsini (Palo Alto, California) Martin is architecting the future of print media with her recent work assembling the nation’s second-largest newspaper company for McClatchy, buying Knight Ridder for $6.5B then selling off 12 properties for $2B. John Martin Baker Botts (Dallas) Also renowned in M&A and venture finance, Martin also focuses on helping companies with IT outsourcing and business process outsourcing transactions.
Sasan Mehrara  Simpson Thacher (New York) He helped The Blackstone Group acquire Extended Stay America, MeriStar, Prime Hospitality and Trizec Properties. James Melville Kaplan Strangis (Minneapolis) Melville mobilizes whatever’s needed to make the best deals for clients across the North Star State. Alan Mendelson Latham & Watkins (Menlo Park, California) Despite its recent roller-coaster act, Amgen has grown like kudzu since 1980, thanks largely to Mendelson’s guidance. Gilbert Menna Goodwin Proctor (Boston) Menna is simply mighty: $100 billion in M&As, matched with $30 billion in securities offerings. Mark Menting Sullivan & Cromwell (New York) He brokered Regions Financial’s merger with Union Planter, AssetMark Investment Services’ sale to Genworth Financial and Cullen/Frost’s purchase of Summit Bancshares. Michael Meyer DLA Piper (Los Angeles) Meyer delivers tons of office space for clients: 330,000 sq-ft for City National Bank, 300,000 for The Capital Group and 200,000 for Bank of America. George Mihlstein Latham & Watkins (Los Angeles) Mihlsten makes huge SoCal developments happen, such as Staples Center and the Playa Vista urban-infill community. Steven Miles Baker Botts (Washington, DC) Besides an impressive energy practice, Miles has made megadeals for Ferralloy Steel North America, Nordam Corp., Raytheon and Saudi American Bank. O’Malley Miller Munger Tolles (Los Angeles) Amgen, Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles and Maguire Properties all mind Miller’s advice. Scott Miller Sullivan & Cromwell (Palo Alto, California) Miller materialized deals such as Alcan Inc.’s hostile takeover of Pechiney and EchoStar Communications’s $3.5 billion offering of high-yield debt. Charles Miller Bernstein Shur (Portland, Maine) A real estate maven, Miller’s also noted for asset and stock transactions, investment banker selection and partnership formation.
Gail Mills  
Burr & Forman (Birmingham, Alabama)  
A pioneer  in 1990s health-care "conduit" loans, Mills also proved instrumental  in  establishing gated golf-course communities in Alabama and Tennessee.  

Osborne Mills  
Squire Sanders (Cleveland)  
Mills has proven marvelous  for bilateral credit facilities, unsecured loans, mezzanine debt transactions and loan restructurings and workouts.  

J. Gregory Milmoe  
Skadden Arps (New York)  
When client Refco Inc. lost sleep over $430 million in hidden debts, Milmoe stayed cool  and calmed down stakeholders to reach solutions.  

Harold Moore  
Skadden Arps (New York)  
Moore mobilized the Qatargas II deal, Mission Energy’s Indonesian power project and the CF Industries/Terra ammonia project in Trinidad.  

Thurston Moore  
Hunton & Williams (Richmond, Virginia)  
Moore lined up $700 million in investments for major government-pension funds, plus he advised a Mid-Atlantic venture capital firm and a leaf-tobacco processor.  

James Morphy  
Sullivan & Cromwell (New York)  
Mighty Morphy guided First Data through its pending $29 billion LBO, Albertson’s directors regarding its tripartite acquisition, and Wrigley’s special committee about its recapitalization plan.  

Mark Morton  
Potter Anderson (Wilmington, Delaware)  
He helped American Pharmaceutical Partners acquire American BioSource, and guided InfoUSA through a 2006 proxy contest.  

Charles Mulaney  
Skadden Arps (Chicago)  
Ameritech’s $60 billion merger with SBC Communications, Scientific-Atlanta’s sale  to Cisco Systems and Abbott Laboratories’s purchase of TheraSense: Mulaney made ’em happen.  

John Murphy  
Cleary Gottlieb (Washington, DC)  
This jetsetter  aided  Credit Lyonnais in its ten-figure rehabilitation of Executive Life, and arranged $3 billion in capital for China Construction Bank.  

Frederick Muto  
Cooley Godward (San Diego)  
Bank credit lines, lease lines and off-balance sheet financings are just a few fields Muto has mastered.
Philip Nicholson  Cox Castle (Los Angeles) A legend among Los Angeles real estate lawyers, Nicholson has been crafting Southland deals since 1962.

John Nolan  Winstead Sechrest (Dallas) Dallas Fort Worth Airport’s new international terminal got cleared for takeoff with negotiations between Nolan and private parties including the Hunts, Pritzkers and Hyatt Hotels.

Theodore Novak  DLA Piper (Chicago) Novak proved vital in making Trump Tower Chicago’s arrangements, as well as plans to redevelop the 500-acre U.S. Steel Southworks plant.

Eileen Nugent  Skadden Arps (New York) Nugent knew the right moves for AMC Entertainment’s sale to J.P. Morgan Partners and the merger of Endo and Algo pharmaceutical companies.

Robert Nutt  Ropes & Gray (Boston) Nutt has 35 years’ experience representing issuers and financial institutions in various private equity, M&A and debt restructuring transactions.

Clare O’Brien  Shearman & Sterling (New York) She was super for Corning International selling its precision lens business to 3M, plus various acquisitions by Boston Scientific and Quest Diagnostics Inc.

G. Daniel O’Donnell  Dechert (Philadelphia) Call him O’mazing — he landed Worldspan for investors at $1.1 billion, and now he’s arranged to sell it to Travelport for $300 million more.

Mark Oland  Bingham McCutchen (Hartford, Connecticut) The deal architect for Connecticut power plants, hotels and an NFL stadium, his clients range from AMLI Residential Properties to Wells Fargo.

Debbie Orshefsky  Greenberg Traurig (Miami) Orshefsky proved outstanding for efforts to develop Miami Beach Marina, Deerfield Beach Energy Center, the Marriott Marco Beach Resort and more.

Richard Pachulski  Pachulski Stang (Los Angeles) Pachulski plowed through obstacles facing the debtors of Commonwealth Equity Trust, Sizzler International and singer Toni Braxton.
Leo Pircher  Pircher Nichols (Los Angeles) Enjoy visiting the Ritz Carlton and Four Seasons in Chicago, or living in Southern California’s Playa Vista development? Pircher made them happen. Martin Polevoy  DLA Piper (New York) Looking for a 1-million-sq.-ft.-plus lease in Manhattan? Polevoy landed such spaces for Lehman Brothers, the N.Y. Times Co. and a German real estate fund. Alan Pomerantz  Orrick Herrington (New York) Pomerantz puts together money and planning for global asset managers, private equity real estate funds, real estate investment trusts and more. Robert Pope  Hunton & Williams (Richmond, Virginia) The Catholic Diocese of Richmond trusted in Pope for their bond offerings, as did Rockingham Memorial Hospital. Maury Poscover  Husch & Eppenberger (St. Louis) Poscover’s proficiencies include secured, cash-flow and unsecured loans, financial restructurings, and providing advice on avoiding lender liability. Susan Pravda  Foley Lardner (Boston) This Beantown office head offers sharp advice for middle-market companies in the consulting, manufacturing, service and tech sectors. Beverly Quail  Ballard Spahr (Denver) Quail’s the queen of Colorado real estate, plus she coordinated huge “senior notes” backed by Las Vegas casinos and resorts. Kirk Radke  Kirkland & Ellis (New York) Radke gives rockribbed counsel for carried interest programs, fund formations and institutional private-equity spinouts. Patrick Ramsey  Paul Hastings (Los Angeles) His experience in acquisition, construction, environmental and leasing matters comes in handy for clients seeking to buy, lease, finance or develop major commercial projects. David Redlick  WilmerHale (Boston) Redlick’s ready to handle any life science deal, from Cynosure’s IPO above the bid price to Fabre-Kramer’s worldwide development deal for a depression drug with GlaxoSmithKline.
John Reed  Davis Wright (Seattle) The Seattle Times Co. snapped up four smaller newspapers, and Lanoga Corp. acquired more lumberyard and a truss plant, thanks to Reed. F. William Reindel  Fried Frank (New York) Reindel rode point on Datek Online's $1.4 billion sale to Ameritrade and the $1 billion acquisition of National Golf Properties. Richard Reinhold Willkie Farr (New York) Reinhold doesn't find billion-dollar deals taxing - just look at his work in funding the privatization of Penn National Gaming and Station Casinos. Carl Reisner  Paul Weiss (New York) Reisner finds the silver linings behind dark bankruptcy clouds, advising buyers interested in financially distressed and bankrupt companies. Donald Resnick  Jenner & Block (Chicago) If you need rock-solid advice on Tax Increment Financing or tax-exempt bond financing, look no further. Gregory Ressa  Simpson Thacher (New York) When The Blackstone Group bought Equity Office Properties Trust, it needed to sell some of its new properties quickly. Ressa prepped the buyers and had contracts ready. Alison Ressler  Sullivan & Cromwell (Los Angeles) Ressler really came through in the Sprint-Nextel merger, SandRidge Energy's acquisition by Ares Corporate Opportunities Fund and PayPal's purchase by eBay. James Rishwain  Pillsbury Winthrop (Los Angeles) Rishwain runs the gamut of deals involving condo complexes, development sites, industrial parks, residential developments, even wineries. Roger Ritt  WilmerHale (Boston) He's the Tax Man when Medtronic sells $4.4B in convertible notes or MapInfo is acquired by Pitney Bowes. Harry Roberts  Thompson & Knight (Dallas) Roberts arranged the sale of Dallas's largest office building and a $235 million loan secured by properties in numerous states.
Charles Robins Weil Gotshal (Boston) Robins knew the right moves for Berkshire Hathaway, N.E.W. Customer Service Companies and Thomas Lee Partners. Robert Robinson Fennemore Craig (Phoenix) Buying or selling hotels, office buildings or shopping centers presents plenty of challenges. Good thing Robinson has them all beat. Eddie Rodriguez Mintz Levin (San Diego) A veteran of 200 merger deals, Rodriguez also rules for equity financing, including $250 million for Rhythms NetConnection and a $67.5 million IPO for Comps.com. Patrick Rondeau WilmerHale (Boston) More than 20 start-ups thank their lucky stars for Rondeau, who’s handled their financings. Jeffrey Rosen Debevoise & Plimpton (New York) Rosen rounded up a complicated array of investors to pay $6.6 billion for 5.7 million acres of International Paper Co.-held forest, spread across 17 states. Robert Rosenbaum Dorsey & Whitney (Minneapolis) ADC Telecommunications, Deluxe Corp. and Hormel Foods count on Rosenbaum’s robust counsel. Steven Rosenblum Wachtell Lipton (New York) He can take telecom companies through their entire life cycles, from creation and IPO to spinoff, merger or takeover defense. Barry Rosenthal Bingham McCutchen (Washington, DC) Rosenthal handled the Kennedy-Warren Apartment complex in D.C., the Westwood Retail Complex in Bethesda, Md., The Meridian at Courthouse in Arlington, Va., plus others. Mike Rosenwasser Vinson & Elkins (New York) Rosenwasser serves as the New York anchor for his firm’s esteemed corporate team, having taken the lead on hundreds of M&As, financings and master limited partnerships. Richard Ross Sonnenschein Nath (Phoenix) Ross is right-on for the owner and hotel operator of Montage Beverly Hills, a luxury hotel/condo/spa/public garden development.
Charles Mulaney
Patrick Seaver  Latham & Watkins (Costa Mesa, California) Latham’s OC ace-in-the-hole takes on emerging companies as well as deals for the established likes of Broadcom, Varco, Credit Suisse and Lehman Brothers. Carl Seneker  Morrison & Foerster (San Francisco) Seneker sealed the Clift Hotel deal for Divco West Properties, and sold an L.A. highrise tower for the Takenaka Corp. of Japan. Mark Senn  Senn Visciano (Denver) The founder and leader of one of Colorado’s top boutiques is also one of the nation’s most prolific dealmakers and lecturers in the area of commercial leases. Kevin Shepherd  Venable (Baltimore) This real estate veteran was key to the development of Baltimore’s Marriott Waterfront Hotel and the East Pratt Street office tower on the inner harbor. Leopold Sher  Sher Garner (New Orleans) An icon in the transactional world of America’s South who specializes in the most complicated real estate deals. Paul Shim  Cleary Gottlieb (New York) Shim’s a sure thing for TPG Capital; he’s advising the equity giant in pending investments in Alltel Corp. and Harrahs Entertainment. Herbert Short  Sutherland Asbill (Atlanta) You can’t beat Short’s expansive expertise and talent when it comes to complicated financings involving the electric utility industry. Richard Shutran  Dewey Ballantine (New York) A major project finance power with clients like PG&E Corp., TECO Energy and Credit Suisse, Shutran’s recent deals have touched Mexico, Chile, Colombia and the Philippines. Leslie Silverman  Cleary Gottlieb (New York) Silverman shines in cross-border financings and the development of new financial products. Joe Sims  Jones Day (Washington, DC) At the top of the list for deals needing the most experienced antitrust counseling — just ask Abbott Laboratories, Time Warner, CBS Inc., Chevron and many others.
Gary Singer  O’Melveny & Myers (Newport Beach, California) Singer guided WaterPik Technologies in the company’s sale to the Carlyle Group and Zodiac S.A. Paul Singerman  Berger Singerman (Miami) For negotiations and deals tied to bankruptcies and restructurings, Singerman leads what may be Florida’s best team. Pankaj Sinha  Skadden Arps (Washington, DC) His prowess in the M&A field is evidenced worldwide by multibillion-dollar deals for Duke Energy, AES Corp., PPL Global, Hoechst AG and others. Joel Sirkin  WilmerHale (Boston) Sirkin secured 1 million sq. ft. for Novartis’ research headquarters in Cambridge, Mass. Shannon Skinner  Kirkpatrick Lockhart (Seattle) Her real estate and financing skills are key to many of the Northwest’s most notable developments, including the Seattle Art Museum and Tacoma’s waterfront area. Sheldon Sloan  Lewis Brisbois (Los Angeles) Best to hire this former judge if you’ve got a complicated development or deal that has to pass muster with a governmental agency. Andrew Smith  Simpson Thacher (New York) Bound to make an impact in the financial world for decades, Smith takes on huge deals for The Blackstone Group, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, Ripplewood Holdings and other giants. Bradley Smith  Davis Polk (New York) He keeps J.P. Morgan on top by handling dozens of financials, restructures and recapitalizations. Nathan Smith  Bernstein Shur (Portland, Maine) Smith is solid for deals involving power plants, railroads, estate properties and forestry and land conservation. Robert “Jay” Smith  DLA Piper (Baltimore) Educate Inc., Marriott International and T. Rowe Price Group have all benefited from Smith’s sage advice.
Edward Sonnenschein  Latham & Watkins (Los Angeles) Sonnenschein’s solid in strategic partnering and tech-transfer transactions, working for clients in the energy, gaming, hospitality and real estate industries. Larry Sonsini  Wilson Sonsini (Palo Alto, California) The Valley’s dealmaking icon continues to handle some of the biggest high-tech transactions, such as repping Pixar in its $7 billion sale to Disney. David Sorkin  Simpson Thacher (New York) A star in Simpson Thacher’s unrivaled private equity practice, Sorkin took lead on KKR and TPG’s $45 billion buyout of TXU. A. Gilchrist Sparks  Morris Nichols (Wilmington, Delaware) Spin-offs and split-offs, along with regular M&As, heat up under Sparks’ helmsmanship. Robert Spatt  Simpson Thacher (New York) It’s hardly a surprise that the board of Dow Jones & Co. called on this savvy M&A veteran for advice when Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp. came calling with its $5 billion bid. Lisa Specht  Manatt Phelps (Los Angeles) Specht spoke with, and won over, eight community groups which initially opposed The Related Companies’ redevelopment of New York’s St. Regis Hotel site. Brian Stadler  Simpson Thacher (New York) Stadler fielded developments that challenged his client The Blackstone Group’s bid for America’s top office landlord. And during Super Bowl weekend, to boot. John Steel  DLA Piper (Seattle) Steel shines in DLA’s Seattle outpost with a prolific array of equity financings, M&As, strategic alliances and venture deals. Alan Stephenson  Cravath Swaine (New York) Stephenson played a key role in Abbott Laboratories’ $3.7 billion buyout of Kos Pharmaceuticals. Jack Stephenson  Burr & Forman (Birmingham, Alabama) Stephenson’s solid for corporate and partnership taxation, real estate development and securities and insurance regulation.
Mark Stevens  Fenwick & West (Mountain View, California) Stevens’ stint as EVP for Excite@Home didn’t slow his M&A pace, where he has notched well over $20 billion in transactions. Charles Still  Fulbright & Jaworski (Houston) This longtime Texan is one of Fulbright’s most reliable veterans for big M&A work, including Stewart & Stevenson’s billion-dollar sale to Armor Holdings. John Sullivan  DLA Piper (Boston) The firm’s real estate leader in Boston has closed project financings, property acquisitions and sales in the billions of dollars in North America and Europe. John Sumberg  Bilzin Sumberg (Miami) America’s Capital Partners, BankAtlantic, Norwegian Cruise Lines and the University of Miami all depend on him. Julie Sweet  Cravath Swaine (New York) Under Sweet’s flavorful tutelage, the Kohlberg Kravis & Roberts Co. IPO grew from $1.5 billion to more than $5 billion. Charles Szalkowski  Baker Botts (Houston) He guides Link Energy, Questia Media, Tanknology and the University of Texas board of regents. Susan Talley  Stone Pigman (New Orleans) Good luck tossing a stone in Louisiana without hitting a major real estate development that Talley has had her hands on. James Tanenbaum  Morrison & Foerster (New York) An innovator and force to be reckoned with atop his firm’s top notch capital markets practice, Tanenbaum has a flair for complex offerings and securities transactions. Andrew Taylor  Choate Hall (Boston) He skippered the formation of a $400 million health-care VC fund, plus a buyout firm’s acquisition of an ice cream company. George Taylor  Burr & Forman (Birmingham, Alabama) In the past year, Taylor has neatly tied up automotive, healthcare and manufacturing deals in the $10-to-$300 million range.
Gary Teblum  Trenam Kemker (Tampa, Florida) One of the brightest corporate stars shining from Tampa blends an expertise in complex financial transactions and tax law. Paul Theiss  Mayer Brown (Chicago) The firm’s corporate practice leader keeps busy with offerings for issuers and purchasers and M&As for emerging and established companies.

Thomas Thompson  Buchanan Ingersoll (Pittsburgh) Blessed with a diverse client portfolio, Thompson’s also a hometown hero for working to keep the local Penguins and Pirates sports teams local and on-track.

Steven Todrys  Simpson Thacher (New York) Todrys is the tax master behind his firm’s M&A work, from Kohlberg Kravis’ acquisitions to Doubleclick’s sale to Google.

Paul Tosetti  Latham & Watkins (Los Angeles) Allergan, Broadcom, Hilton Hotels and other sizable clients turn to Tosetti for transaction solutions.

Bruce Toth  Winston & Strawn (Chicago) Toth nabbed $5.1 billion for the sale of Lear Corp., and spun-off Treehouse Foods from Dean Foods.

Donald Toumey  Sullivan & Cromwell (New York) Quite simply the go-to guy when one bank decides to buy another bank or an investment firm.

Robert Townsend  Cravath Swaine (New York) Cravath’s MP also handles massive deals like Johnson & Johnson’s $16.6 billion acquisition of Pfizer’s consumer healthcare business.

Robert Townsend  Morrison & Foerster (San Francisco) The firm’s corporate chair has totaled deals in the billions for clients like McKesson Corp., Wine.Com and Thomason S.A.

Cheryl Tritt  Morrison & Foerster (Washington, DC) Besides counseling Alltel, Clearwire Corp. and T-Mobile, Tritt aids a nonprofit that’s using radio frequencies to restore mobility to the paralyzed. Really!
Raymond Truitt  Ballard Spahr (Baltimore) Truitt’s true blue for real estate deals, including development, financing, leasing and restructuring. Michael Tumas  Potter Anderson (Wilmington, Delaware) Tumas took point for Cadbury Schweppes’ acquisition of Dr Pepper/Seven Up, and grew a joint venture to license genetically manufactured seeds. John Utzschneider  Bingham McCutchen (Boston) American Oil Change Corp., Biomatrix, Energia Global International and PaperExchange.com all rely on his sage advice. Jose Valdivia  Hogan & Hartson (Miami) Expert in energy, water and agricultural deals, Valdivia is the lawyer companies turn to for complex projects, negotiations and M&As in Latin America. Thomas Van Dyke  Bryan Cave (Kansas City, Missouri) Also part of his firm’s commercial practice ”rapid-response team,” Van Dyke specializes in acquisitions of platform and add-on businesses. Julio Vega  Bingham McCutchen (Boston) Clients such as Accenture, Novazyme Pharmaceuticals and Voice Signal Technology count on Vega for M&A, strategic alliances, licensing agreements and more. Jeffrey Vetter  Fenwick & West (Mountain View, California) One of the Valley’s premier practitioners for public offerings and M&As with a client roster that includes Cisco Systems, Excite Inc., eBay, Homestore and VERITAS Software. Patricia Vlahakis  Wachtell Lipton (New York) Vlahakis for M&As, cross-border transactions, hostile takeovers and private equity investments.
William Voge  Latham & Watkins (New York) The global chair of Latham’s finance team masterminds energy projects worldwide, including Alaska’s natural gas pipelines from its North Slope to Canada. William Volk  Vinson & Elkins (Austin, Texas) Volk brings a high-tech and venture capital specialty to Vinson’s eminent corporate team, amassing stock offerings and acquisitions worth billions. Paul Walker  Sidley Austin (Los Angeles) Walker’s way strong in capital markets, creditors’ rights, development and leasing, real estate lending and workouts. Leigh Walton  Bass Berry (Nashville) Talk about full-service: she helps clients buy hospital systems, handle any helpful joint ventures, and arrange the moolah to make it happen. Herbert Wander  Katten Muchin (Chicago) One of the most respected veterans of the Windy City counseled a special committee to Nuveen Investments’ board on its $6-billion buyout by Madison Dearborn Partners. Paul Ware  Bradley Arant (Birmingham, Alabama) Ware represented SouthTrust Corp. in its $13.4 billion acquisition by Wachovia, then repped Wachovia in selling some branches to RG Crown Bank. Martin Waters  Wilson Sonsini (San Diego) Clients like Genentech, Ciphergen Biosystems and Cytokinetics speak to his prominence in life-sciences and telecommunications deals. Scott Waxman  Potter Anderson (Wilmington, Delaware) Waxman’s won-drous for those needing Delaware advice, such as creditors of the federal Tobacco Transition Payment Program. Marc Weingarten  Schulte Roth (New York) Problem: The FDIC issued a moratorium which threatened Weingarten client Cerberus Capital’s bid for half of GMAC. Solution: Ask the FDIC for a waiver, which Weingarten pulled off.
Joseph Weinstein  Davis Wright (Seattle) He helped the Vancouver Grizzlies’ owners sell the team, and Tyson Foods spin off its seafood division.

Philip Weller  DLA Piper (Dallas) With broad transactional skills for all types of projects, Weller is the Texas anchor to DLA’s renowned real estate group.

Robert Werner  Brown McCarroll (Austin, Texas) Also noted for his environmental defense practice, Werner’s a winner for acquiring, developing, leasing or selling real estate.

Glenn West  Weil Gotshal (Dallas) This lawyer to the Southwest Sports Group (owner of Texas Rangers and Dallas Stars) worked on Alliant Insurance Services’ June 2007 sale to the Blackstone Group.

Pamela Westhoff  DLA Piper (Los Angeles) Westhoff wrestles with real estate dispositions, joint ventures, restructures and workouts daily.

Julie Weston  Davis Wright (Seattle) She landed $900 million in private investments into Clearwire Corp., and raised $600 million in convertible debt for Ico North America.

James Westra  Weil Gotshal (Boston) Weil Gotshal’s Boston beacon is representing Thomas H. Lee Partners and Fidelity National Financial in their $5.3 billion acquisition of Ceridian Corp.

Peter White  Nixon Peabody (New York) Think you have busy days? White closed separate stadium deals for the New York Yankees and Mets, all of 15 minutes apart.

Debra White  Milbank Tweed (Washington, DC) White’s work for the lenders in the $500 million debt recapitalization of Global Village Telecom is par for the course in her finance and technology practice.

George Goolsby

Sam Williams  Brown Rudnick (Boston)  Earnouts, placement of private equity, leveraged buyouts: Williams slides smoothly through these fields and more. Marcus Williams  Davis Wright (Seattle)  Williams represented Clearwire Corp. in its $600 million IPO, and OnFiber Communications in its acquisition by Qwest. Reid Wilson  Wilson Cribbs (Houston)  The commercial real estate and land-use guru is the guiding force behind Texas’ top real estate boutique.

Bruce Wilson  Covington & Burling (Washington, DC)  Because of him, the N.J. Nets’ home court will be called Barclay Center. Next up: representing the NFL regarding the proposed New Meadowlands Stadium. Barton Winokur  Dechert (Philadelphia)  Winokur first made waves by helping Texaco acquire Getty Oil; then he went on to work for Citigroup Venture Capital, Castle Harlan and more. Barry Wolf  Weil Gotshal (New York)  This sought-after counsel to elite private equity funds worked on GS Capital Partners’ $27.5 billion acquisition of Alltel Corp. Van Wolf  Snell & Wilmer (Phoenix)  Have a deal with a complicated environmental and regulatory twist? Call Wolf. Scott Wolfe  Latham & Watkins (San Diego)  Last year he sold Ligand Pharmaceutical Inc.’s oncology group for $205 million, and its Avinza painkiller for $300 million plus royalties. Donald Wolfe  Potter Anderson (Wilmington, Delaware)  His broad corporate and courtroom skills close deals for the likes of Hewlett-Packard Co. and Omnicare.
Michael Wolitzer  Simpson Thacher (New York) One of the top experts regarding private investment funds, Wolitzer reps the likes of Citigroup, Blackstone and Centerbridge. James Woolery  Cravath Swaine (New York) Woolery repped Manor Care in its $6-billion purchase by The Carlyle Group and the TXU board during the public company’s record-setting private equity buyout. Michael Woronoff  Proskauer Rose (Los Angeles) IPOs, public and private debt offerings, private-investment-in-public-equity transactions — there are few deals Woronoff can’t do. Michael Wortley  Vinson & Elkins (Dallas) A 30-year veteran of the highest caliber, Wortley shines across private equity, REITS and public M&As. Kathleen Wu  Andrews Kurth (Dallas) Who else will go the extra step of running ”service traps” to test a building’s electric and waste-management capabilities? Her attention to detail overlooks nothing. Jordan Yarett  Paul Weiss (New York) Yarett conceived and executed a novel whole-business securitization deal for the private equity consortium that bought Dunkin Brands Inc. Alfred Youngwood  Paul Weiss (New York) Youngwood builds snazzy deals, such as Viacom’s split-off of CBS and Triarc’s disposition of Snapple. Jeffrey Zucker  Lionel Sawyer (Las Vegas) Unquestionably one of Nevada’s go-to guys for complicated M&As and real estate deals. Howard Zucker  Hawkins Delafield (New York) A top authority on housing bonds, he also advised California, New York and four other states on investing their Big Tobacco settlements.