



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



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Dennis J. Block

63, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, New York

ORCHESTRATES THE SORT OF MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR transactions that transform industries; his Procter & Gamble-Gillette deal last year was notable for its size—at \$57.9 billion, the year's biggest—but also for its innovative two-step, tax-free structure; helped Pfizer Inc. acquire Pharmacia Corp., Quaker Oats to pick up PepsiCo Inc., Houghton Mifflin Co. in its acquisition by Vivendi Universal and Pfizer to acquire Warner-Lambert Co.; other clients include Bear, Stearns & Co., Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., CBS Corp. and General Electric Co. He has also advised Texaco in discrimination matters. **NLJ**

