


THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN LAWYERS IN AMERICA

PROFILES IN POWER

Maureen Mahoney

52, Latham & Watkins, Washington

ARGUING HER FIRST CASE before the U.S. Supreme Court when she was 34 years old, Mahoney has gone on to a stellar career in high court advocacy. The justices selected her in 1988 to argue *Mackey v. Lanier Collection Agency & Service Inc.*; she argued and filed a brief as amicus curiae supporting the position that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act does not forbid an employer from garnishing welfare benefits from employees, even if the purpose is to collect judgments against plan participants. Since then, she has argued 18 cases before the high court, winning 16, including the famous *Grutter v. Bollinger*, in which she successfully defended the University of Michigan Law School's affirmative action policy. She has represented a range of clients, including the U.S. House of Representatives, Union Pacific Railroad Co. and the government of Saudi Arabia. 



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