

THE DECADE'S MOST INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS A SPECIAL REPORT



APPELLATE

MAUREEN MAHONEY
LATHAM & WATKINS



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL

ROBERT WYMAN
LATHAM & WATKINS

EDITOR'S NOTE

These are the lawyers who've defined a decade.

For our annual Most Influential Lawyers special report, the editors of *The National Law Journal* have selected 40 attorneys in a dozen key legal areas whose work between Jan. 1, 2000, and Dec. 31, 2009, was so consequential that it helped to push the profession, an industry or a practice area substantially forward.

The lawyers included in the pages that follow were selected through our staff's reporting, as well as from more than 100 nominations submitted by the legal community. Associate Editor Leigh Jones valiantly spearheaded the effort, sifting through mounds of material to help us come to our difficult, final decisions.

The list spans law firms, academia, government and advocacy groups, but, consciously subtracts a few obvious categories: Members of the Supreme Court and

attorneys general, for instance, are generally influential by definition, and they are not included here.

Instead, we have focused upon lawyers in the following specific practices: antitrust; appellate; bankruptcy; civil rights; corporate; energy and environmental; in-house; intellectual property; labor and employment; legal education; litigation; and regulatory. In other words, we're primarily focusing on hard-working lawyers who've been in the trenches on big deals or major litigation or who have been pioneering at in-house positions or the nation's law schools.

Think of this special report as a road map for those of you who aspire to most influential status in the decade ahead. The lawyers featured here point the way.

— David Brown, editor in chief

APPELLATE



MAUREEN MAHONEY
LATHAM & WATKINS

DIEGO M. RADZINSCHI

“[A]MONG THE
DECADE'S TOP
APPELLATE
LITIGATORS.”

Maureen Mahoney, the woman many have called “the female John Roberts,” may never sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. That’s because in the case of her career, 2003’s *Grutter v. Bollinger*, she broke from her conservative roots to successfully defend the use of affirmative action in university admissions. While the win may have made it harder for her to ascend to the high court, it also assured the 55-year-old Latham & Watkins partner a place among the decade’s top appellate litigators.

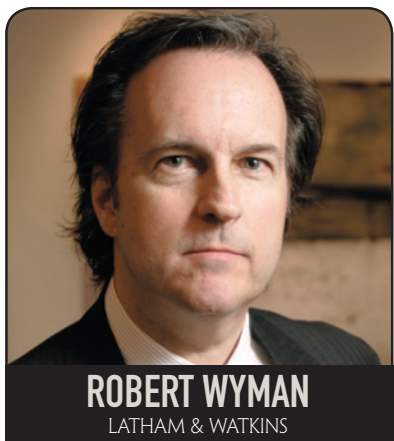
A former deputy solicitor general in the first Bush administration, and the founder of Latham & Watkins’ Supreme Court practice, Mahoney had already argued nearly a dozen cases before the justices by the time of *Grutter*, including a successful effort to keep the Commerce Department from using statistical sampling in the census. But she said the intense public focus on *Grutter*, which involved a challenge to the University of Michigan’s use of race as a factor in law school admissions, made it unlike anything she had done before.

Grutter split the court, 5-4, but Mahoney won her second landmark argument of the decade in a 9-0 rout. In 2005’s *Arthur Andersen v. U.S.*, Mahoney convinced a unanimous high court that executives from the defunct accounting firm could not be found guilty of obstruction of justice for shredding Enron-related documents because, at the time, they didn’t believe it was illegal.

When a second Supreme Court vacancy opened up with the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Mahoney’s name was bandied about as one of the few contenders who wasn’t a sitting judge. It wasn’t to be. Now, she’s taking a bit more time to herself, having stepped down as practice chairwomen at Latham. She’s just not the type of lawyer who wants to die at her desk, she said.

“I’ll still have a desk,” she said. “But I’d rather die on my bicycle.”

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL



ROBERT WYMAN
LATHAM & WATKINS

JASON DOY

“WYMAN HAS
BEEN AT THE
FOREFRONT OF THE
CLIMATE CHANGE
MOVEMENT.”

Robert Wyman has been one of the key lawyers at the forefront of the climate change movement. The global chairman of the environment, land and resource department at Latham & Watkins, Wyman, 55, has been helping clients respond to new demands for cleaner technology to defend their current practices when under scrutiny. He spends much of his time convincing regulators, lawmakers and judges that his clients—be it power plants or lawn and gardening businesses—are committed to making cleaner products.

“You know the paper/rock/scissors game? That, to me, has been my practice in a nutshell,” he said. “The paper is government regulation, the rock is the environment and the scissors are technology. Just like the game, none of the three wins every time, but you try to keep them in balance.”

Using that philosophy, in 2008, he convinced the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit to let General Electric Co. build a \$1 billion, energy-efficient natural gas plant in California, despite opposition from environmental groups.

More recently, last August, he convinced a federal judge in California to let a local government coalition issue building permits to new businesses in Southern California, despite claims by environmental groups that new development was harmful to the region.

Also a policymaking figure, he has served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Climate Change Work Group during the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations. He currently represents the National Climate Coalition and California Climate Coalitions on implementation issues related to EPA and California global warming developments.