WASHINGTONIAN
December 2007 washingtonian.com

Big Guns

Washington lawyers may tend to dress alike, but they're not all the same when dealing with problems.

By Kim Isaac Eisler
Photographs by Vincent Ricardel

Eric (Rick) Bernthal
"On the Air"
Legal Specialty

Gary Epstein
"On the Air"
Legal Specialty

Jerry Kafka
"Greetings From the IRS . . ."
Legal Specialty

John Huber
"Stocks and Trades"
Legal Specialty

Peggy Zwisler
"To Merge or Not to Merge"
Legal Specialty

Maureen E. Mahoney (Latham & Watkins). The preeminent female litigator at the US Supreme Court, this former clerk for Justice William Rehnquist has argued 18 cases at the high court, winning 16 of them. The 53-year-old daughter of an Indiana personal-injury attorney, Mahoney is fast on her feet, a quick study of arcane issues, and fiercely determined.

She is on most short lists to serve on the Supreme Court herself one day. In the meantime, it doesn't hurt that the good friend who succeeded her as a clerk in Rehnquist's chambers is now the Chief Justice of the United States.

At the top of the list among top Washington lawyers are defense attorneys Billy Martin and Brendan Sullivan, celebrity divorce lawyer Sandy Ain, former solicitor general Ted Olson, and Supreme Court litigator Maureen Mahoney. They are shown at Georgetown University Law Center's Supreme Court Institute.

William Baker III
"Stocks and Trades"
Legal Specialty

Rita Cavanagh
"Greetings From the IRS . . ."
Legal Specialty

Julian Kim
"Greetings From the IRS . . ."
Legal Specialty

Rick Bress
"Supreme Court"
Legal Specialty

Kathy Ruemmler
"You're Going to Trial"
Legal Specialty

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