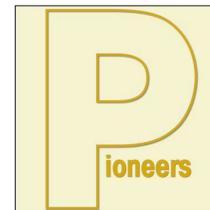
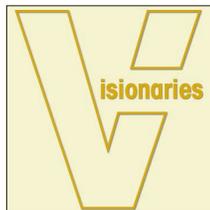


The  
**90**  
Greatest Washington Lawyers  
of the Last 30 Years

30th Anniversary  
Special Issue



It would have been fairly simple to create a 30th anniversary issue that glanced over the biggest events in the Washington legal community since our newspaper was founded in 1978. Grab a few of the bound volumes, search the electronic archives, find a bunch of old pictures, and voila! Instant issue.



Instead, we embarked upon a far more challenging enterprise. Late last year, we decided to try to name the lawyers who had the greatest impact on the Washington legal community over the last 30 years.

We divided our task into three parts. The editors selected 30 lawyers whose foresight and hard work have changed the business of law in Washington. These are our visionaries. We also picked 30 lawyers whose community and public service has set an example that other D.C. lawyers should follow. These are our champions.

In addition, we're remembering 30 pioneers—advocates who have passed away since 1978, but whose contribution to busi-

ness and the community made an indelible impact on the way law in Washington is practiced today.

Earlier this year, we asked readers for their suggestions, and hundreds of names flowed into our newsroom. We also relied heavily upon our own reporting and institutional knowledge to make the final choices.

From the beginning, we made a decision to concentrate on the private bar, public-interest organizations, and career government attorneys. We deliberately exempted high government officials (Supreme Court justices and attorneys general, for instance) from our list—unless their contributions had a specific impact on Washington's legal community. Other than that, the qualification for inclusion was a law degree and exceptional service during the 30 years that we have published.

—DAVID BROWN, EDITOR IN CHIEF & PUBLISHER

# William Perlstein



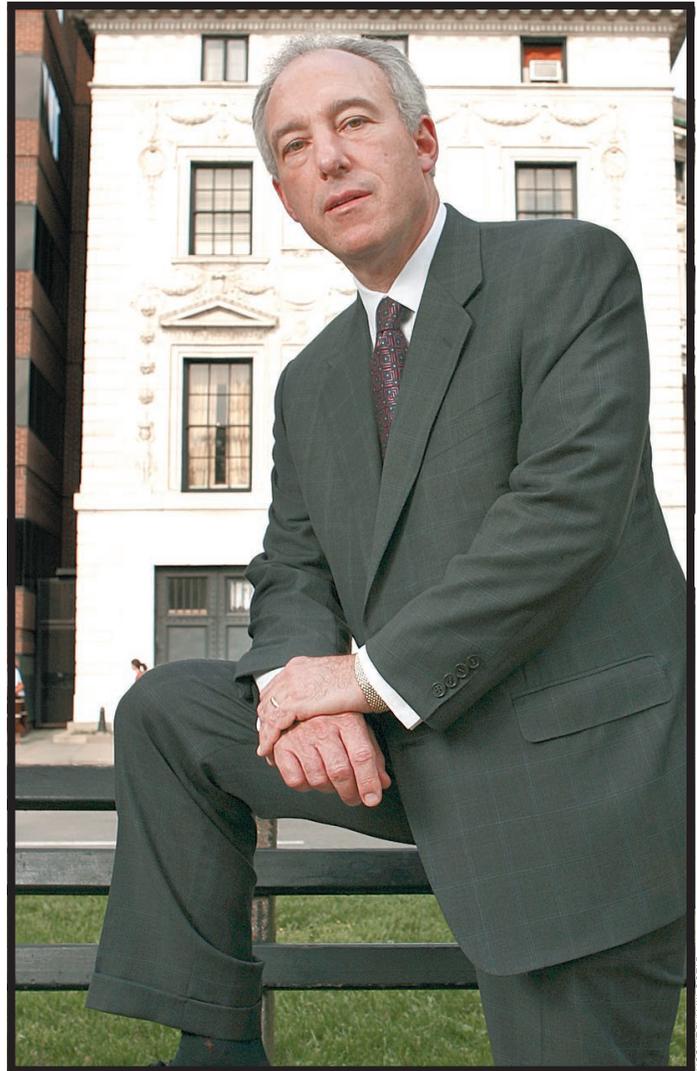
The business of law was changing rapidly when William Perlstein became managing partner of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in 1998.

Though firm founders Lloyd Cutler and John Pickering were still active, the firm had to make the difficult transition to the next generation of firm leaders. And the firm needed to evolve as clients were going global and legal issues crossed international boundaries

Perlstein focused on building up the firm's core Washington practices, including Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement, antitrust, civil litigation, and appellate law. He also hired Washington heavyweights such as William McLucas, Jamie Gorelick, Howard Shapiro, and Seth Waxman, among others.

Then, in 2004, Wilmer Cutler joined forces with Boston-based Hale and Dorr. The marriage combined Wilmer Cutler's regulatory capabilities with Hale and Dorr's intellectual property and venture capital expertise, to produce a firm that gave clients exactly what they wanted at a high-end level.

"He recognized that the practice of law and the legal market was changing rapidly," says William Lee, co-managing partner of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr and the other half of the vision. "What we needed to do was to create a law firm that was suited for



not the year 2004, but for the year 2050 and beyond." —ATTILA BERRY

# William McLucas

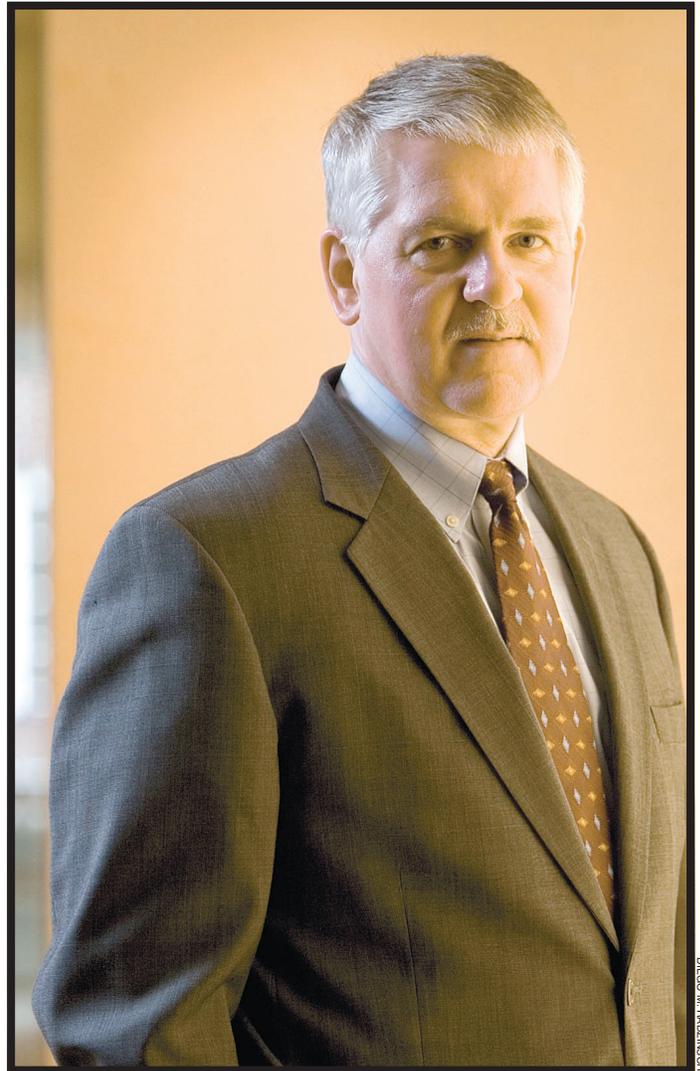


William McLucas may be the poster child for how a government lawyer transitions to a hyper-successful private practice.

McLucas was just a few years out of law school when he began as a self-described “kid lawyer” at the Securities and Exchange Commission in the late 1970s. But by 1989, he had risen to become the SEC’s chief enforcement official, taking on the role just as Congress had expanded the agency’s powers to wield financial sanctions against Wall Street.

McLucas used that authority to push fallen junk bond king Michael Milken into a record \$600 million settlement—even as he tried “to figure out what being the director of the division meant,” he says. He eventually concluded the job meant keeping everybody honest.

Twenty years after he began his career at the SEC, he joined Wilmer Cutler & Pickering in 1998. It took an effort to adjust to losing his law enforcement powers: “When you walk out the door, you become just another lawyer in private practice,” he says of leaving the SEC. But McLucas has proved that there’s more to his investigative acumen than a government post. He’s set the mold for attorneys as in-house investigators alongside his board advisory and criminal defense work. He’s been brought in to clean up after frauds at Enron, WorldCom, and UnitedHealthCare.


DIEGO M. PALZINSKI

It’s an unusual role, he says: “You’re not an advocate for your client. You’re an advocate to get the facts right.” —JEFF HORWITZ

# Jamie Gorelick



Jamie Gorelick was skeptical when Janet Reno asked her to become deputy attorney general. “There’s just no way that they’re going to put two women in there,” Gorelick, now chair of the public policy practice at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, recalls telling Reno.

She was wrong. Perhaps she shouldn’t have been surprised: Breaking new ground in male-dominated fields has been a hallmark of Gorelick’s career.

“You know someone respected you if they called you ‘sir,’ ” Gorelick says of her stint as general counsel of the Defense Department. ‘Ma’am’ is what you call your mom.”

At the Pentagon from 1993 to 1994, she helped broker the Clinton administration’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy and worked to create paths of advancement for female officers. As deputy attorney general under Reno from 1994 to 1997, she won praise for her management of the day-to-day operations of Main Justice.

She put those same talents to use as the only woman on the 9/11 Commission, which she describes as “the longest, deepest, and broadest look at American government ever.”

At Wilmer since 2003, Gorelick maintains her dual expertise in national security and women’s advancement. She represents clients with classified matters before Congress and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. She also does pro bono work on behalf of organiza-



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tions such as the National Women’s Law Center and serves as chairwoman of the firm’s work-life balance committee. —JEFF HORWITZ

# Lloyd Cutler



Pioneers

Lloyd Cutler co-founded one of D.C.'s most prestigious law firms, served 11 presidents, and ardently championed civil rights. In other words: "Lloyd symbolized what it means to be a successful Washington lawyer," says William Perlstein, co-managing partner of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr.

Cutler, who died in 2005, started Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in 1962, laying the groundwork for the firm to grow into the 1,000-lawyer powerhouse it is today. (He died a year after seeing his firm merge with Boston's Hale and Dorr.)

Cutler was White House counsel to two presidents: He held the position for Jimmy Carter from 1979 to 1980 and for Bill Clinton in 1994 during the Whitewater investigation.

He co-chaired the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law from 1971 to 1973, and organized legal defense for protestors arrested during the riots stemming from the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1982, he and fellow Wilmer founder John Pickering successfully argued for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People before the U.S. Supreme Court in *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.* The Court's decision helped the NAACP avoid a large financial penalty for organizing a boy-



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cott of white merchants in Mississippi in the 1960s. It was one of nine cases Cutler argued before the high court. —MARISA MCQUILKEN

# John Pickering



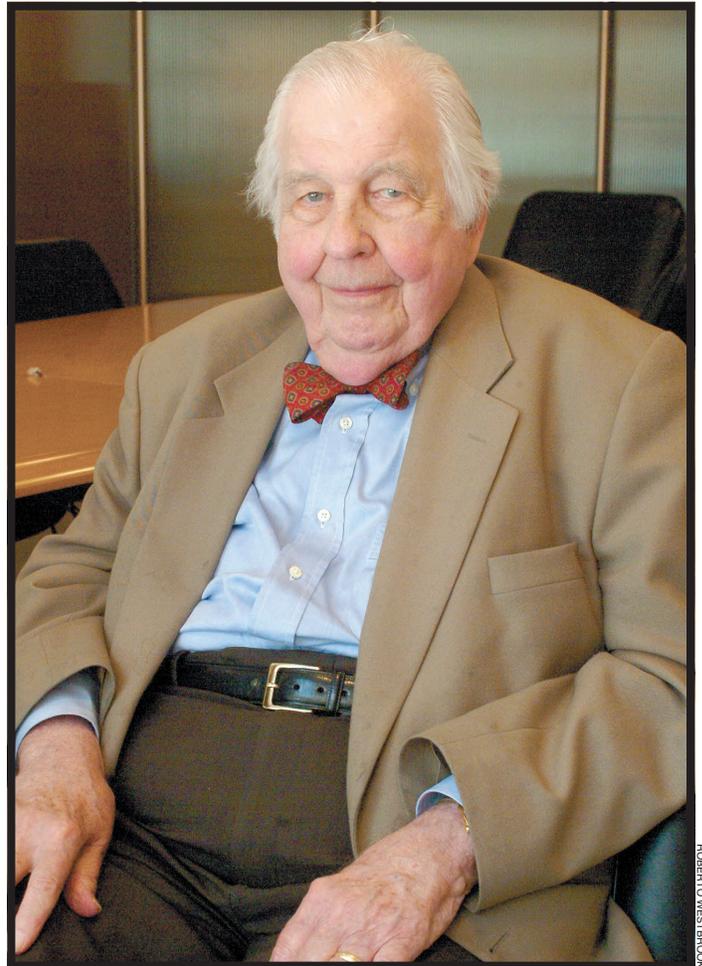
Pioneers

When the University of Michigan faced a court battle over its affirmative action admissions policy, it turned to a faithful and prominent alumnus: John Pickering. Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, the firm that Pickering co-founded in 1962, charged Michigan a discounted rate. And Pickering himself, then in his 80s, was the senior lawyer on the matter, taking it all the way to the Supreme Court in 2003. He died in March 2005, a year after his firm's merger with Boston's Hale and Dorr.

Pickering's loyalty to his alma mater displays the dedication colleagues say defined his practice. The noted appellate lawyer made several trips to the Supreme Court, and colleagues say his devotion to public service and equal justice set the standard for current lawyers at the firm.

"John did as much as any lawyer in America to convince those of us in major law firms that you could combine a successful private law practice with significant contributions to pro bono," says William Perlstein, co-managing partner of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr.

Pickering served as D.C. Bar president from 1979 to 1980 and won numerous awards for his pro bono work, including from the NAACP Legal Defense and



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Education Fund and the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. —MARISA MCQUILKEN

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