

FABFIFTY

YOUNG LITIGATORS

Litigation's Rising Stars



Catherine Stetson
Hogan & Hartson

Fifty lawyers, 45 and under, who have made their marks already. Some try cases, others settle for a living. Together they will set the pace of the conflict-ridden future.

HOW DO YOU MAKE IT AS A YOUNG LITIGATOR? Splendid lawyering skills help, of course. So does having the right mentor, working for a firm unafraid of advancing its young lawyers, and possessing a taste and talent for office politics. But above all, the basic requirement seems to be a zeal for the work, a ferocious desire to succeed no matter the obstacle faced, time required, or millionth air mile traveled.

Over the last several months, we've been searching for litigators age 45 and under who have made their marks in a famously competitive practice area (one that's usually dominated by lawyers old enough to remember Watergate). With all the talk of risk-averse clients and disappearing trials, sometimes we thought we were hunting an endangered species. Our reporting team sifted through hundreds of names, talking to senior partners, firm managers, and government and public interest lawyers. Hoping to find a crop of fresh faces, we intentionally excluded outstanding litigators who made our 45 Under 45 list, which we published in January 2003.

In the end, we developed a list of lawyers who have not only transcended their status as prized protégés but who seem likely to lead the pack inside the courtroom, at the settlement table, and (for those at private firms) as business magnets, too. One of the choices was simple: Paul Clement, the 40-year-old who has skyrocketed to the top appellate job in the land: solicitor general of the United States. Selecting the lawyers to accompany him wasn't so easy. Eventually we narrowed the list to 50—a fabulous 50, in our estimation.

Up-and-Coming Litigators

We talked to hundreds of lawyers to find the rising stars whose careers are described. Beginning with a wide and informal canvass that generated more than 200 suggestions, we identified practice areas that seemed rich in opportunity for young litigators and homed in on those for our reporting. That's why the list contains a concentration of appellate, intellectual property, public interest, and products liability lawyers. Others have made a mark as criminal defenders or labor lawyers or securities specialists. All of them have worked relentlessly to get where they are. What follows is one of the biographies of 50 litigators we expect to see leading the field for years to come.



Catherine Stetson, 37 Hogan & Hartson

Last winter Catherine Stetson argued four appellate cases in 59 days—a reflection of her burgeoning reputation in the appellate bar. Stetson clerked for U.S. district court judge Stanley Harris and Judge David Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. She was also a protégé of John Roberts when he was a partner at Hogan. Stetson worked with the future chief justice on *Smith v. Doe*, the U.S. Supreme Court case that upheld state statutes requiring the registration of convicted sex offenders. Last spring Stetson successfully codefended a petition for certiorari brought by the U.S. solicitor general in *Leavitt v. Baystate Health Systems*, a multibillion-dollar Medicare matter.

This article is reprinted with permission from the January 2007 edition of THE AMERICAN LAWYER. © 2007 ALM Properties, Inc. All rights reserved. Further duplication without permission is prohibited. For information, contact ALM Reprint Department at 800-888-8300 x6111 or visit www.almreprints.com. #001-01-07-0018

HOGAN & HARTSON

www.hhlaw.com