

America's

Best

CORPORATE  
LAWYERS

**OUR** second annual exclusive survey asked more than **24,000** board members to identify the law firms they most admire, nationally and in **50** metropolitan areas. Because of ties, the national top **20** has jumped to **21**. The following pages contain profiles of all of these champion firms, along with a look at some of the lawyers who have contributed to their success. The report on which firms won most-admired status on a local basis begins on page **92**.

## THE TOP 21 FIRMS

	LAST YEAR'S RANK
<b>1. SKADDEN ARPS SLATE MEAGHER &amp; FLOM,</b> NEW YORK	<b>1</b>
<b>2. CRAVATH SWAINE &amp; MOORE,</b> NEW YORK	<b>2</b>
<b>3. SULLIVAN &amp; CROMWELL,</b> NEW YORK	<b>3</b>
<b>4. WACHTELL LIPTON ROSEN &amp; KATZ,</b> NEW YORK	<b>5</b>
<b>5. DAVIS POLK &amp; WARDWELL,</b> NEW YORK	<b>6</b>
<b>6. JONES DAY REAVIS &amp; POGUE,</b> CLEVELAND	<b>4</b>
<b>7. BAKER &amp; MCKENZIE,</b> CHICAGO	<b>8</b>
<b>8. LATHAM &amp; WATKINS,</b> LOS ANGELES	<b>9</b>
<b>9. KIRKLAND &amp; ELLIS,</b> CHICAGO	<b>10</b>
<b>10. GIBSON DUNN &amp; CRUTCHER,</b> LOS ANGELES	<b>7</b>
<b>11. WEIL GOTSHAL &amp; MANGES,</b> NEW YORK	<b>17</b>
<b>12. AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER &amp; FELD,</b> DALLAS	<b>20</b>
<b>13. SHEARMAN &amp; STERLING,</b> NEW YORK	<b>11</b>
<b>14. O'MELVENY &amp; MYERS,</b> LOS ANGELES	<b>13</b>
<b>15. WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH &amp; ROSATI,</b> PALO ALTO	<b>12</b>
<b>16. PAUL WEISS RIFKIND WHARTON &amp; GARRISON,</b> NEW YORK	<b>16</b>
<b>17. FULBRIGHT &amp; JAWORSKI,</b> HOUSTON	<b>-</b>
<b>18 (TIE). ARNOLD &amp; PORTER,</b> WASHINGTON, D.C.	<b>18</b>
<b>SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN &amp; WOOD,</b> CHICAGO	<b>14</b>
<b>20 (TIE). FRIED FRANK HARRIS SHRIVER &amp; JACOBSON,</b> NEW YORK	<b>-</b>
<b>SIMPSON THACHER &amp; BARTLETT,</b> NEW YORK	<b>15</b>

# Leaders in 50 Metro Areas

*Here's how law firms rank in their respective markets.  
It's a close-fought battle—witness the large number of ties.*

## New York

### Representative clients

#### 1. SKADDEN ARPS SLATE MEAGHER & FLOM LLP

1,700 lawyers  
www.skadden.com  
(212) 735-3000

Cendant  
Citigroup  
MetLife

#### 2. DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL

648 lawyers  
www.dpw.com  
(212) 450-4000

Comcast  
Exxon Mobil  
Roche Holding

#### 3. SULLIVAN & CROMWELL

702 lawyers  
www.sullcrom.com  
(212) 558-4000

Goldman Sachs  
Intelsat  
Microsoft

#### 4. SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT

720 lawyers  
www.simpsonthacher.com  
(212) 455-2000

AOL Time Warner  
GE Capital  
Lehman Brothers

#### 5. PAUL WEISS RIFKIND WHARTON & GARRISON

495 lawyers  
www.paulweiss.com  
(212) 373-3000

Carnival  
Raytheon  
Swiss Reinsurance



## PICKS OF THE HIRE POWERS

In a separate *Corporate Board Member* survey, 350 corporate general counsels chose the 20 firms they'd most want to represent their companies on national matters. Their top two picks echo those of our wider survey (see page 48), but eight firms rank higher in this one: Wachtell Lipton, Latham & Watkins, Weil Gotshal, Simpson Thacher, Gibson Dunn, Sidley Austin, Wilson Sonsini, and Arnold & Porter. One new firm cracks this top 20: Covington & Burling, subject of "Galloping Ghosts" (page 111). Here's how the in-house lawyers ranked the winners:

1. Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom
2. Cravath Swaine & Moore
3. Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz
4. Latham & Watkins
5. Sullivan & Cromwell
6. Jones Day Reavis & Pogue
7. Weil Gotshal & Manges
8. Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
9. Gibson Dunn & Crutcher
10. Davis Polk & Wardwell
11. Sidley Austin Brown & Wood
12. Baker & McKenzie
13. Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
14. Shearman & Sterling
15. Kirkland & Ellis
16. O'Melveny & Myers
17. Arnold & Porter
18. Covington & Burling
19. Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
20. Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison

