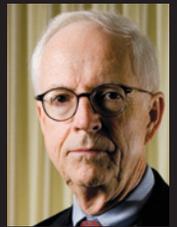


THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

MARCH 28, 2011

MOST INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS

A SPECIAL REPORT



EDITOR'S NOTE

To have clout is to be able to land a blow—to shape the world and the way it works.

In compiling this year's edition of *The National Law Journal's* Most Influential Lawyers list, we looked for attorneys who demonstrated that ability in 10 specific practice areas during the past five years.

We weighed nominations from our readers and conducted extensive

research before selecting 34 attorneys who are shaping the law, the economy, the physical fabric of the United States and the world.

We plan to honor these attorneys during the NLJ's annual dinner, scheduled for June 8 at Gotham Hall in New York. We hope that you'll join us. (For more information, visit contactnlj.com/nlj2011.)

—MICHAEL MOLINE, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

FINANCE AND CAPITAL MARKETS



WILLIAM SWEET

**SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE,
MEAGHER & FLOM**

During the financial markets turmoil, William Sweet remained steady. The leader of Skadden's financial institutions regulatory and enforcement group, Sweet helped stabilize banks and keep investment money flowing. He shepherded a consortium of private-equity investors to create a newly chartered version of BankUnited Inc. after the 85-branch Florida bank was shut down by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The deal served as the template for private-equity investors seeking to salvage banks under FDIC control. Justifiably—BankUnited today has \$11 billion in assets and has completed a \$900 million initial public offering. Sweet has handled dozens of private equity acquisitions, including those with Pacific Capital Bancorp, First Southern Bancorp Inc., Korea Exchange Bank, American Stock Transfer & Trust Co. and many others.