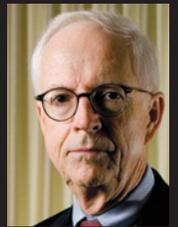


# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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 [contactalm.com/nlj2011](http://contactalm.com/nlj2011).)

—MICHAEL MOLINE, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

**LAW FIRM LEADERSHIP**



## **ERIC FRIEDMAN**

**SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE,**

**MEAGHER & FLOM**

Plenty of pundits have chastised law firms for not being responsive to client needs—and that’s a mistake executive partner Eric Friedman is making sure that Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom doesn’t make. Since assuming the firm’s top job in 2009, Friedman has formed committees to uphold strict standards of client service, ethics and business. He pushed for increased information sharing within the firm, greater efficiency and better integration among offices. The strategy seems to be paying off—Skadden saw profits per partner grow by about 10% during 2010. Friedman has attracted top lateral talent, including former New York Chief Judge Judith Kaye, former White House Counsel Gregory Craig and former U.S. District Judge Stephen Robinson of New York. “Eric’s got a very active management style,” said Skadden partner Scott Simpson.