

California LAWYER

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We honor 44 lawyers for their extraordinary achievements in 2009.

by the editors of *California Lawyer*

The California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Awards recognize lawyers throughout the state whose legal work made a profound impact in 2009. They include a state Assembly member, law professors, sole practitioners, and lawyers from large international law firms. Their practice areas range from appellate law and intellectual property to employment law and disability rights. Among their successes: winning a record whistleblower settlement against a defense contractor, negotiating the first loan guarantee from the Department of Energy for a solar-panel manufacturing plant, and setting a precedent on the federal courts' ability to cap state prison populations. Altogether, we identify 27 accomplishments in 17 areas of legal practice that reflect the breadth of the California State Bar. Congratulations to all the winners. —*Chuleenan Svetvilas*



The **CLAY** Awards

ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR



Richard Marmaro

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Los Angeles

CRIMINAL LAW

U.S. District Court Judge Cormac J. Carney stunned the white-collar defense bar by dismissing criminal and civil fraud charges against former executives of Broadcom. His December ruling in *USA v. Ruehle* not only turned heads among defense attorneys and prosecutors, but it also called into question whether the backdating of stock options is even illegal—implicating several similar cases set for trial this year.

The case was a major victory for Marmaro, who represented the lead defendant, William J. Ruehle, Broadcom's former chief financial officer. For several years, the microchip giant and its leadership had faced damning allegations from the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission that the company illegally backdated stock options. According to observers, Marmaro helped to convince Judge Carney that prosecutors not only leaked grand jury testimony to the press, but also intimidated three key witnesses in the case and assisted in shaping the testimony of another.