

# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

MARCH 25, 2013

An **ALM** Publication



## JAY LEFKOWITZ

### KIRKLAND & ELLIS

## THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS IN AMERICA



We evaluated the Most Influential Lawyers based upon four basic criteria. The following icons indicate the areas where we think they excelled.



**POLITICAL CLOUT**  
Has deep access to critical government leaders.



**LEGAL RESULTS**  
Is renowned for his or her ability to get results for clients.



**MEDIA PRESENCE**  
Appears frequently and effectively in high-profile media settings.



**BUSINESS LEADER**  
Has deep ties to the business world or runs a substantial business.



**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**  
Is known for cutting-edge commentary about legal issues.

# THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS IN AMERICA

*The National Law Journal* has selected 100 lawyers who shape the legal world through their work in the courtroom, at the negotiating table, in the classroom or in government. They have taken on major legal battles and orchestrated the biggest corporate deals. They've tackled unpopular causes and helped run giant corporations.

The lawyers here were chosen by the NLJ's editors, aided by nominations from the legal community and research by our reporting staff. We asked several key questions to help judge the influence of lawyers profiled: How deep were their political connections?; what kind of results did they achieve for clients?; how far and how effective was their media reach?; have they been

business leaders?; are they thought leaders on important legal issues? (Icons throughout this report indicating the qualities we feel the lawyers best embody.)

We limited selections in a few ways, focusing on accomplishments since 2006, the last time we published the 100 Most Influential Lawyers list. Judges weren't eligible, nor were members of Congress or the president. This list is for practicing attorneys, members of the legal academy and officials in law-centric government positions (elected or otherwise).

Our goal, in the end, was to identify members of law's power elite. Meet the 100 members in the pages that follow.



ROHANNA MERRENS



## JAY LEFKOWITZ

**SENIOR PARTNER, KIRKLAND & ELLIS, NEW YORK**

In the recent movie *Won't Back Down*, a pro bono lawyer represents parents who battle a teachers' union over the future of a troubled Pittsburgh school. It's a story based on a real-life fight by parents in California—and that of their lawyer, Jay Lefkowitz. A veteran of both Bush White Houses, Lefkowitz has, from his perch as a partner at Kirkland & Ellis, been a leading voice on school choice issues. When not advocating for vouchers and reform, the 50-year-old—perennially described as baby-faced in media profiles, one of which noted that he was Karl Rove's White House workout buddy—is a no-nonsense appellate and antitrust lawyer for an array of blue-chip clients.