

## WASHINGTON'S

# Most Influential Women Lawyers

In a profession still dominated by men, these power players have taken a sledgehammer to the glass ceiling to grab their place among the elite of the Washington bar.



**PATRICIA MILLETT**  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

## EDITOR'S NOTE

A time will arrive, perhaps soon, when singling out lawyers by gender will seem wholly unnecessary. Unfortunately, we're not there yet. Don't buy it? Try answering this question: How many major law firms can you name that are run by women—ditto practice groups, corporate law departments, advocacy groups, public agencies? Some of them? Certainly. Half? Not even close. Barriers have fallen and continue to do so, and the lawyers on our list of Washington's Most Influential Women have career paths that any lawyer—male or female—would envy. These are power players, and they were selected by the editors of *The National Law Journal* for work that places them in an elite tier. We are recognizing their work, their influence and the fact that they may have had to work a bit harder than many of their male colleagues to get where they are today. Here's to the day when that won't be necessary. —DAVID L. BROWN, editor in chief

Within the elite U.S. Supreme Court bar, Patricia Millett of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld has achieved a starring role. Millett co-chairs Akin Gump's Supreme Court practice and has argued 28 high court cases, tying her for the most arguments among women in practice today. "I've worked now with a lot of people in the Supreme Court bar, and she is at the apex in terms of being a fantastic writer and advocate," said Jeffrey Fisher, co-director of Stanford Law School's Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. Millett, a Harvard Law graduate, joined Akin Gump after serving as an assistant to the solicitor general from 1996 to 2007. There, she argued 25 cases in the Supreme Court and briefed more than 50. In her two years with Akin Gump, she has argued three high court cases including her high-profile victory this term in the First Amendment challenge, *U.S. v. Stevens*, and briefed more than a dozen cases in addition to arguing multiple cases in the courts of appeals. In 2009, she was one of five candidates recommended by the Virginia Bar Association for a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, and her name has been mentioned as a possible successor to Solicitor General Elena Kagan if Kagan is confirmed as a Supreme Court justice. —MARCIA COYLE

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