

THE HILL



Best In The Business: Hired Guns

April 24, 2008

AFTER DEMOCRATS TOOK CONTROL OF CONGRESS, THEY TOOK CONTROL OF K STREET. Often junior partners during the years of Republican rule, Democratic lobbyists became the faces of their firms in 2007. Even as Democratic congressional leaders sought to break the bond between lobbyists and lawmakers, some advocates took the plunge and opened new shops. By year's end, several had built books of business worth millions of dollars.



Vic Fazio



Bill Paxon

The Hill's annual list of top lobbyists reflects the greater importance Democratic lobbyists play, while not forgetting the Republicans in town who maintain a major role in crafting legislation, particularly in the Senate, where voting margins are so close. Today's list names the best "hired guns" and corporate lobbyists. To compile our list, we talked to key congressional aides and lobbyists themselves.

VIC FAZIO AND BILL PAXON, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

The Democratic and GOP ex-Reps. Fazio (Calif.) and Paxon (N.Y.) keep racking up business for the large law firm.



Joel Jankowsky



Robert Leonard

JOEL JANKOWSKY, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

Jankowsky is one of the founders of the modern American lobbying business and still one of its best practitioners.

ROBERT LEONARD, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

This sage of tax reform was the Ways and Means staff director during the 1986 tax overhaul.