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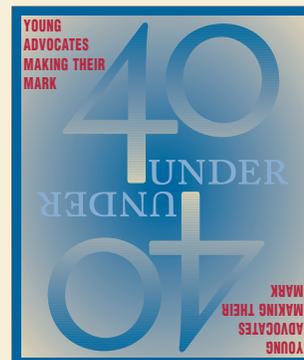
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Young lawyers chalk up impressive achievements and exert influence

THE FOLLOWING 40 ATTORNEYS were culled from nominations The National Law Journal received from readers, the advice of legal associations and our own research on lawyers who would still be under 40 by May 2, our publication date. Though in no way comprehensive, the list attempts to identify 40 of the leading young attorneys in various areas of law across the country who, we expect, will continue to exert influence in the legal profession. We looked for evidence of extraordinary achievements early on in their careers.

We attempted to balance the picks geographically, though inevitably many work in New York and Washington, two epicenters of the national legal community. One noticeable trend in the latest crop of legal talent is the resurgence of mergers and acquisitions; a handful of the 40 have played a role in billion-dollar deals over the past few years. Several young attorneys have argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, one is dean of a top-tier law school and another is attorney general of her state. The achievements of these young lawyers are indeed impressive.



PAUL GELLER, 36

Partner at Lerach Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins • Boca Raton, Fla., office

At 36, Paul Geller is the youngest partner at Lerach Coughlin with his name on the marquee. Geller's firm, once GellerRudman, recently merged with securities class action heavyweight William Lerach's firm, a merger that Geller brokered. Geller is also the youngest member of the San Diego-based firm's executive committee and the manager of its Boca Raton, Fla., office. His practice focuses on class actions, securities and consumer fraud. He frequently serves as lead counsel in class actions, often in the southeastern United States. He has won cases for the plaintiffs against Tyco International Ltd., Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Inc. and

Morgan Stanley, among many others. In the past few years, Geller has represented plaintiffs in securities class actions against Hamilton Bancorp, which settled for \$8.5 million, and against Prison Realty Trust, which settled for more than \$120 million, and against Intermedia Corp., which settled for \$38 million. He was also lead counsel in a case against Advanta Corp. that challenged interest rate disclosures by the credit card company that settled for \$11 million, and was counsel to one of the lead plaintiffs in a case that settled for \$38 million against the American Family Publishers in sweepstakes litigation. Geller also has



several cases pending against the mutual fund industry.

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