

# THE TIMES

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## Law

### Lawyer of the week Theodore Boutrous Jr

Theodore Boutrous Jr, a partner at the Los Angeles office of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, acted for Jim Acosta, whose permanent press pass to the White House was revoked on November 7. In an emergency filing, a judge issued a temporary restraining order on November 16 to restore Acosta's press pass and the White House restored the permanent pass on November 19.

**What were the main challenges in this case?** The stakes were so high. The revocation of Mr Acosta's press credentials was unprecedented and it was part of President Trump's campaign to attack

and undermine freedom of the press. The law and facts were on our side, but nothing like this had happened before. We knew that if we launched the lawsuit we needed to win.

**What's the best decision you've taken as a lawyer?** Joining this firm in 1987. It has been a wonderful platform to handle, with outstanding colleagues, a wide variety of matters with commercial, political and social significance: from the battle for marriage equality to the fight against out-of-control class action litigation.

**Who has inspired you in your career?**



Two other lawyers named Theodore: my father, Theodore Boutrous, Sr; and my partner and mentor at this firm, Theodore B Olson, the former solicitor-general of the United States.

**What's the funniest thing that has happened to you as a lawyer?** I represented the comedian Jay Leno in the Michael Jackson criminal trial. I was on crutches with a broken foot. Jay walked into the packed courtroom ahead of me, and they gave him the royal treatment, escorting him grandly through the doors; they then let the doors slam on me. Jay used the video clip in his *Tonight Show* monologue to mock "star treatment" in Hollywood.

**What's the best advice you've**

**received?** Think big — don't let conventional wisdom dictate your decisions as a lawyer, or in life.

**Which three qualities should a lawyer have?** Creativity, courage and honesty.

**What law would you enact?** A federal reporter's privilege protecting confidential journalistic sources because the courts are not providing adequate protection.

**How would you like to be remembered?** As a lawyer who helped protect liberty, freedom of the press and democracy.

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