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.

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

THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS IN AMERICA

Theodore Boutrous Jr.
Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Los Angeles

After a game-changing, national class action victory before the U.S. Supreme Court in Wal-Mart v. Dukes, Theodore Boutrous Jr., 52, did not kick back. He has successfully been battling related fallout in the lower courts. Co-chairman of the appellate and constitutional and the crisis-management law groups for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Boutrous is working with partner Theodore Olson on the landmark challenge to California’s same-sex marriage ban while handling another key class action in the Supreme Court. He is known for his wise, strategic advice to clients in crisis and is considered a media law star.