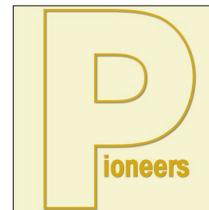
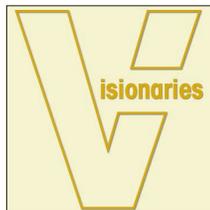


The  
**90**  
Greatest Washington Lawyers  
of the Last 30 Years

30th Anniversary  
Special Issue



It would have been fairly simple to create a 30th anniversary issue that glanced over the biggest events in the Washington legal community since our newspaper was founded in 1978. Grab a few of the bound volumes, search the electronic archives, find a bunch of old pictures, and voila! Instant issue.



Instead, we embarked upon a far more challenging enterprise. Late last year, we decided to try to name the lawyers who had the greatest impact on the Washington legal community over the last 30 years.

We divided our task into three parts. The editors selected 30 lawyers whose foresight and hard work have changed the business of law in Washington. These are our visionaries. We also picked 30 lawyers whose community and public service has set an example that other D.C. lawyers should follow. These are our champions.

In addition, we're remembering 30 pioneers—advocates who have passed away since 1978, but whose contribution to busi-

ness and the community made an indelible impact on the way law in Washington is practiced today.

Earlier this year, we asked readers for their suggestions, and hundreds of names flowed into our newsroom. We also relied heavily upon our own reporting and institutional knowledge to make the final choices.

From the beginning, we made a decision to concentrate on the private bar, public-interest organizations, and career government attorneys. We deliberately exempted high government officials (Supreme Court justices and attorneys general, for instance) from our list—unless their contributions had a specific impact on Washington's legal community. Other than that, the qualification for inclusion was a law degree and exceptional service during the 30 years that we have published.

—DAVID BROWN, EDITOR IN CHIEF & PUBLISHER

# Paul Smith



Once in a great while a case is so momentous, it changes America—and the lawyer who championed it.

Paul Smith was at Jenner & Block when the firm took on the Supreme Court case *Lawrence v. Texas*. Overnight the longtime appellate lawyer became the highest-profile gay rights lawyer in the country.

He argued the case in 2003 and in a 6-3 decision the Court struck down a sodomy law criminalizing homosexual sex in Texas.

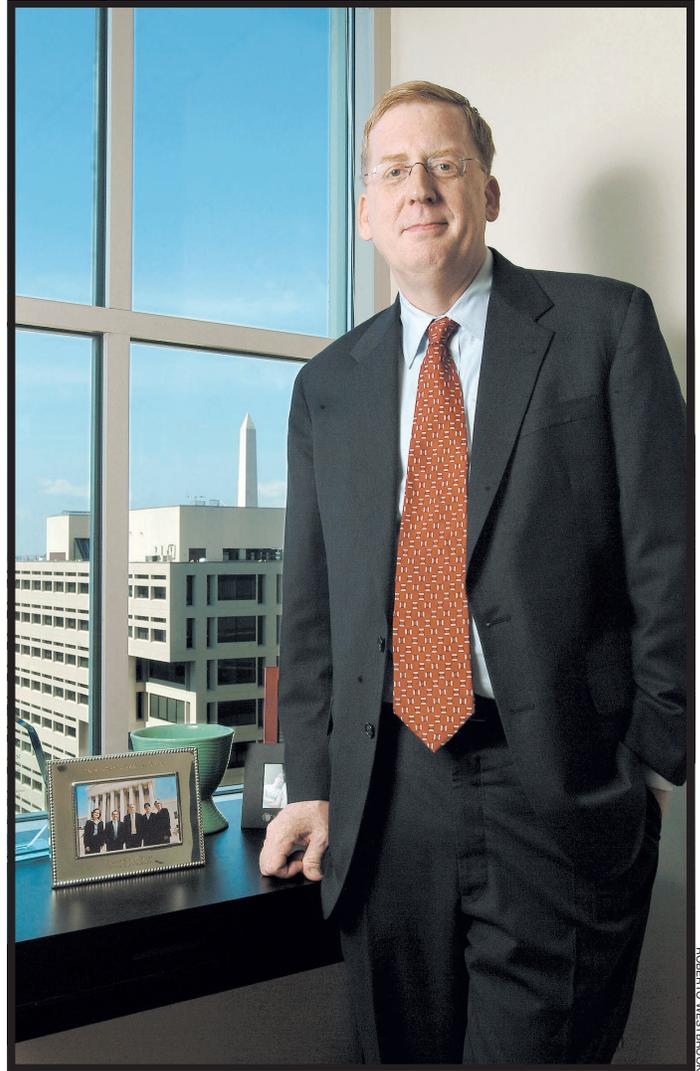
“As a result of that case, it has really been life-changing for me,” says Smith, co-chairman of the firm’s appellate and Supreme Court, and media and First Amendment practices. “I am much more visible and involved.”

Smith didn’t set out to be a gay rights advocate. Before *Lawrence*, he already had an active Supreme Court practice that spanned two decades. He has argued 13 cases before the high court—the first at the age of 31.

Smith says *Lawrence* came to Jenner because there were gay lawyers at the firm with appellate expertise. Smith wound up arguing the case because he had the most high court experience.

Smith has also done a lot of fund raising for gay rights groups over the years. He serves on the board of directors of gay legal rights group, Lambda Legal.

“His service on our board of directors and his commitment to pro bono work demonstrates his passion for civil rights,” says Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal. “He sincerely cares about people and helping them find justice.”



ROBERTO WESTBROOK

Smith, who clerked for Justice Lewis Powell Jr., began his appellate work in 1981 at Onek, Klein & Farr, a now-defunct boutique firm consisting of former Supreme Court clerks. He joined Jenner in 1994. —ANNA PALMER AND W.J. HENNIGAN

## JENNER & BLOCK