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CHAMPIONS & VISIONARIES

EDITOR'S NOTE

For our third annual Legal Times Awards, we honor a group of attorneys who, during the last year, have performed work that has helped advance the practice of law in Washington. The editors of *The National Law Journal* have selected honorees in two categories: Champions, those who have upheld the profession's core values through public service, pro bono efforts and advocacy for civil liberties, and Visionaries, attorneys whose business or legal acumen has been key to expanding their firms, improving government or advancing the law. In September, we'll fete this year's Champions and Visionaries at an event at The Willard Hotel in Washington. Stay tuned to these pages and NLJ.com for more details. —DAVID L. BROWN, Editor in Chief

VISIONARIES

In tough times, these attorneys found ways to build their law firms. In complex legal clashes, they pushed for wise solutions. And in public posts, they demanded better policies.



JEFFREY LAMKEN
MoloLamken

VISIONARIES

JEFFREY LAMKEN

MoloLamken



Appellate litigator Jeffrey Lamken could have continued at his firm Baker Botts, or any other big firm, with his track record of bringing in and winning U.S. Supreme Court cases. But last September, Lamken decided to bolt and open a boutique firm with an old friend, Steven Molo, from Shearman & Sterling. He took three pending Supreme Court cases with him. It was a gutsy move amid the shambles of the national economy, but Lamken has no regrets. "The notion of our own shop, doing things our way, is very exciting," said Lamken, whose firm, MoloLamken, now has a total of seven lawyers in Washington and New York offices. "There's nothing wrong with large firms, but it's nice to know each and every person you

work with." The former Sandra Day O'Connor clerk is also experimenting with new flat fee and other alternative billing practices that have proven popular with cost-cutting clients. Baker Botts could have tried to hang on to his prestigious Supreme Court portfolio, but Lamken said, "They were very kind to me" and agreed to work with him on the three cases. With that continuity, clients decided to go with Lamken as their oral advocate. Still, Lamken said, his new path "may or may not be for everyone. There is a lot you give up in terms of infrastructure and stability when you leave a large, well-managed firm." That came to mind not long ago when Lamken found himself disassembling a balky copying machine. —TONY MAURO

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