



The Year of the Employee

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Legal Elite

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December 2009

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AFTER A TOUGH 2009, WE ASKED
CEOs FROM KEY INDUSTRIES:

Will 2010 be better?

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Legal Elite

READERS POLL 2009

COMPILED BY DAN MILLS

The go-to attorney. Every CEO needs one to handle the good, the bad and the ugly legal side of running a business. Finding a go-to attorney is not as easy as picking a name from the phone book. It takes time, blood, sweat and tears to find the right legal counsel – the kind you'd go to war with.

Each year, SmartCEO recognizes attorneys in the magazine. One year, we recognized attorneys for their largest deals landed and most significant accomplishments. Another year, the focus was on proudest moments and dedication to the field. SmartCEO worked with an independent panel of experts to narrow down the list of nominees to a group of attorneys our readers can look to as a resource.

For 2009, we decided to take a different approach by asking our readers who they see as the go-to attorneys in business law.

The responses resulted in a list of attorneys, from sole practitioners to nationwide firms, with representation that runs the gamut of practice areas. The attorneys are listed alphabetically by last name and include the firm name and practice area. In addition to recommending attorneys, our readers also weighed in on why they feel these individuals rise to the top. Their thoughts are included throughout the section.

Note: This list is based on readers' responses and does not reflect the opinions of SmartCEO magazine.

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**Congratulations to our 2009 Legal Elite winners,
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