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 Association.

The 50 lawyers profiled in these pages are those that we decided — after a rigorous evaluation process — make up potent combinations of youthful exuberance and formidable accomplishment. We do not designate them as “best” or by any other superlative. They are indeed thought of as tops in their fields by the firms or individuals that nominated them, but so were the many other candidates. We say only that they are emblematic of a new wave of leadership in the New Jersey legal profession.

Our basic criteria for selection of these standout lawyers are that they have developed practice niches, amassed strong books of business, demonstrated leadership qualities, shown expertise in litigation or transactional work and committed themselves to pro bono, charitable and professional volunteer work. All these factors tend to distinguish an individual among his or her peers and signal greater accomplishments ahead.

We did not give preference to attorneys at larger firms, but it is evident that they make up the largest share of the group. Generally, this is because one who has excelled while under 40 at a large organization has demonstrated to the management precisely the qualities we focus on in this survey.

Neither did we give preference to characteristics like gender and ethnicity, yet it is rewarding to see that the slate of honorees turned out to be fairly diverse.

We expanded our search this year to in-house corporate counsel and were pleased to find a number of them made the final cut.

As watchers of the New Jersey legal profession, we have noted that many chosen for this feature in the past have continued their rise to stardom. We have no reason to think this year’s group will be any exception.

— Ronald J. Fleury, Editor in Chief

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