

# Daily Journal

COVER STORY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

SHAPING THE FUTURE

# TOP 100

## Editor's Note

This is a season where talk of change is in the air — hot air, or fresh air — depending on where you stand.

But change is not just the latest buzzword in political rhetoric. It is essential, and it can also be deeply challenging. The lawyers and judges on our Top 100 are acutely aware of this. Through their work, they are shaping our future: what kind of air we will breathe, how we will define the institutions we share, how we will settle our disputes, how this business of law will operate.



**Michael Attanasio**

Cooley Godward Kronish

San Diego

As partner and chair of the firm's San Diego litigation practice, he reaped a big win in March. After two hung-jury trials, Attanasio got a federal judge to drop criminal charges against his client, Daniel F. Stulac, a former Arthur Andersen accountant and partner, who worked on Peregrine Systems' financial statements while fraud was going on at the software company. Stulac had faced up to 30 years in prison, if convicted. Attanasio also serves as an adjunct professor of law at the University of San Diego School of Law, where he teaches a course on white-collar and corporate crime. He recently completed a three-year term as a lawyer representative to the 9th U.S. Circuit Judicial Conference.