

# Midsize

A SPECIAL REPORT

# HOT LIST

## Editor's note

This year we set out to blow up our annual Midsize Hot List—in a good way.

We asked scores of firms of between 50 and 150 attorneys to answer a detailed questionnaire designed to measure what makes a firm great—big cases and deals, but also commitment to diversity and their pro bono responsibilities. We carefully studied their responses to arrive at the list you'll find in these pages.

We settled on 20 firms that demonstrated excellence in the courtroom or boardroom; that spotted a niche that eluded their competitors or that excelled on many fronts; that developed innovative management, billing or training structures; that changed the face of the country's cities; that set the standard for midsize practice—firms that clearly stand apart from your everyday law firm.

—MICHAEL MOLINE



A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

From street crime and white-collar defense to mergers and acquisitions and malpractice litigation, Osborn Maledon of Phoenix has the appearance of a firm twice its size.

Fifty lawyers, including 35 partners, represent publicly traded companies, entrepreneurial startups, real estate developers and everyday criminal defendants. Name partner William Maledon recently represented AstraZeneca PLC, coordinating the defense in a multidefendant class action over drug pricing. He handles a wide range of litigation in

state and federal courts, but the firm's caseload can get gritty indeed.

"We are very committed to the mix of street-crime and white-collar work that we have," partner Jean-Jacques Cabou said. "Candidly, you are a better white-collar lawyer if you know how to try a street-crime case."

Criminal appellate and post-trial work, Cabou said, continues to be a growth area. In a ruling of statewide importance this year, the Arizona Court of Appeals issued a favorable

decision for Osborn over the scope of the information prosecutors must present to a grand jury.

The firm is a go-to for law firms and lawyers looking for outside ethics counseling. In 2008, the firm won a judgment in favor of Quarles & Brady in a \$100 million legal malpractice case.

"Nothing against big law firms," said partner Mark Harrison. "We like our practice model."

—MIKE SCARCELLA