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PIONEERS

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DONALD ALEXANDER **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld**



Donald Alexander could say with pride that President Richard Nixon wanted him out. Within three months of becoming commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service in 1973, Alexander shut down the agency's Special Service Staff. That unit was being used to launch tax audits and investigations into critics of Nixon and the Vietnam War. According to Alexander, Nixon made several attempts to fire him. But Alexander remained, serving as commissioner until 1977. In later years, he worked as a tax attorney in Cincinnati and Washington. He joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in 1993 and died on Feb. 3 at the age of 87. — *Jeff Jeffrey*

HAROLD BAKER **Howrey**



In his 30 years as Howrey's managing partner — from 1956 to 1986 — Harold "Hal" Baker never lost his focus on the fundamentals of practicing law. His colleagues at the Washington-based firm said Baker believed that superior client service; hard, smart work; and a commitment to winning could build relationships that would span generations. They might have been on to something. Some of Howrey's largest clients, including Anheuser-Busch Cos., International Paper Co. and MeadWestvaco Corp., have been with the firm for decades. Baker died on Nov. 13, 2008, at the age of 87. — *Jeff Jeffrey*

Jeffrey

RAYMOND BERGAN **Williams & Connolly**



At 6-foot-5, Raymond Bergan commanded attention the moment he entered the courtroom. But it was his eloquent way of telling a story that won over juries. "Court secretaries told me he was their favorite lawyer because he spoke in such complete, well-rounded sentences and paragraphs that they never had to guess what he meant," said partner Daniel Katz. Bergan, who died on May 2, 2008, at age 77, was one of the first lawyers to join what was then the Law Offices of Edward Bennett Williams in 1958. During his 54-year career, he defended such clients as Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa and Fairfax County, Va., politicians in a 1960s bribery case. — *Jeff Jeffrey*

RICHARD COPAKEN **Covington & Burling**



Richard Copaken was a skilled international regulatory and legislative attorney, but his talents went far beyond that. The one-time Covington & Burling partner led the successful legal effort in 1975 to stop the Navy from using the Puerto Rican island of Culebra and later that of Vieques for weapons training. After retiring from the firm in 2005, Copaken co-founded Epagogix, which projected movies' domestic box office revenue based on script analysis. And his abstract paintings have been displayed in Washington, Tokyo and Cambridge, Mass. He died on December 8, 2008, at the age of

67. — *Jeff Jeffrey*

CECILIA GONZALEZ **Howrey**



Being a woman of color can make success in the legal profession doubly difficult. But Cecilia

Gonzalez, who served as vice chairwoman of Washington-based Howrey, didn't let gender or ethnicity stop her from making her mark. A native of Caracas, Venezuela, Gonzalez was widely recognized as one of the nation's foremost practitioners before the U.S. International Trade Commission, representing major corporations in fast-paced intellectual property disputes over imported products. She served as lead counsel in more than 50 Section 337 cases involving a wide range of patented technologies. Gonzalez died on May 4 at the age of 53. — *Jeff Jeffrey*

MARK LEVY
Kilpatrick Stockton



The head of Kilpatrick Stockton's Supreme Court and appellate practice, Mark Levy belonged to an elite club — those lawyers who have argued multiple cases before the high court. Levy's final tally was 16. In October, he argued and won his last Supreme Court case, the employee benefits dispute of *Kennedy v. Plan Administrator for DuPont Savings*. At the time of Levy's passing, veteran Supreme Court advocate Roy Englert Jr. remembered him as "a very able and very public-spirited lawyer." Levy died on April 30 at the age of 59. — *Marisa McQuilken*

BARBARA MCDOWELL
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia



After arguing 18 cases at the Supreme Court for the U.S. solicitor general, Barbara McDowell could have had her pick of law firms. But she decided to use her litigating skills to help the poor, by launching lawsuits with impact beyond individual clients. McDowell, director of appellate advocacy at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, died on Jan. 3 at age 56. But her legal vision will live on at Drinker Biddle & Reath, where her husband, Jerry Hartman, is a partner. He'll head a pro bono initiative in her name. "She really was the voice of the downtrodden in the appellate area in the D.C. Court of Appeals," said Hartman. — *Tony Mauro*

WILLIAM MOFFITT
Moffitt & Brodnax



Lawyers describe William Moffitt, a tall man with a booming voice, as larger than life. Moffitt, who died on April 24 at the age of 60, was a prominent criminal defense lawyer and longtime advocate for civil rights. A name partner at Moffitt & Brodnax in Alexandria, Va., he served as president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and instructor at the National Criminal Defense College. "He had a great sense of justice and the need for justice to reach down to the average person, especially to minorities," said friend John Zwerling of Zwerling, Leibig & Moseley. — *Mike*

Scarcella

JOHN MORING
Crowell & Moring



Thirty years ago, John "Fred" Moring helped lead the original group of 53 lawyers who broke off from Jones Day to form Washington's Crowell & Moring. It was a bold move that paid off. Last year, Moring's namesake firm grossed nearly \$242 million in Washington alone, placing it among the top 10 highest-earning D.C. law offices. Moring himself was an energy partner, focused on federal and state law issues related to natural gas utilities. He served as lead counsel for the trade group Associated Gas Distributors for a number of years. Moring died on May 12 at age 73. — *Marisa*

McQuilken

JOHN QUALE
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom



John Quale used his communications skills for his clients and for the public interest. Before joining the Washington office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom as a partner in 1996, Quale co-founded the mass media communications group at what is now Wiley Rein. He advised clients on structuring deals and resolving cases of contested license transfers. He also frequently wrote and lectured on communications law. But later in life he focused his attention on raising awareness of the disease that would eventually claim his life. In 2005, Quale and his wife founded the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network. He died on June 29, 2008, at the age of 61. — *Jeff Jeffrey*