



# GLOBAL AWARDS 2011

Corporate**INTL**



SETTING THE INDUSTRY STANDARD  
FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE





# WELCOME

TO THE 2011 GLOBAL AWARDS



**THE 2011 CORPORATE INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL AWARDS COMMEMORATES THE FIRMS THAT HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND THAT HAVE SHOWN EXCELLENCE, NOT ONLY IN SPECIFIC LEGAL EXPERTISE, BUT IN SERVICE TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY DURING A DIFFICULT WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN.**

From April through to June of this year Corporate International received over 11,500 unique nomination forms from law firms, in-house counsel teams, business directors and private individuals. This diverse mixture of submissions from both domestic and international clients and peers ensured that we here at Corporate International had a wide range of nominated lawyers and attorneys from a variety of jurisdictions that specialise in a multitude of fields.

A large scale and in-depth research process then took place using the received information that has been combined along with other details that our internal research department have on file.

In July the shortlisted nominees were informed and additional information was requested of the special select few in order to fully recognise the skills of these elite firms and the high quality services that they provide to clients. This up to date information was combined with the comments and ratings from clients and peers as well as the previously conducted in house research from Corporate International's judicial panel to build up a clear picture of each of the shortlisted nominees. The final data was passed on by the panel on July 25th, and over the course of two weeks the final winners were selected.

Our awards merit the leading firms in their chosen specialism, and recognise true professional experience and expertise throughout the world. Corporate INTL magazine is read by business leaders, investors and advisers globally, therefore the awards that the magazine dispenses are huge accolades for those firms that are awarded and deemed to be winners in their chosen categories. Once the winners have been announced and each team has received notice of their award win, this special publication is launched to announce the winners to a global audience.

Each of the regions featured, (Europe, The Americas, Asia & Oceania, Africa and the Middle East) were designated a separate team of researchers who's task it was to take a detailed look at the nominees and carefully select the honour accredited to the chosen winners.

This year the award winning firms are listed by geographic region, broken down into country order and listed with a specific award title. There is also a helpful index at the back of this special Global Awards Supplement 2011 that organises firms in an easy to find list arranged alphabetically by firm name.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2011 WINNING FIRMS FROM CORPORATE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE.**

## GLOBAL FOCUS 2011

2011 has been an interesting year so far for the financial and legal world. Three years after the start of the global economic downturn some regions of the world are starting to see growth and economic progress while some countries are adopting harsh austerity measures just to keep their economies afloat. So far this year Corporate International has worked with highly specialised legal firms representing clients in the most active regions in the world and has gained and shared exclusive insight into world events which is shared with the magazines large readership.

The Japanese economy saw an extremely difficult series of events in 2011, which started with a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and a consequential tsunami which caused a massive level of property and infrastructure destruction as well as causing significant damage to a nuclear power facility. Bank of Japan injected more than \$325 billion in yen into the economy. Some economic forecasters, who previously had anticipated slower growth for Japan in 2011, now believe GDP may decline as much as 1% for the year.

After the controversy surrounding the "stepping-down" of the organisation's previous leader, the IMF chose a new managing director, Christine Lagarde, France's former finance minister, to head the global lender as the world's economy slowly recovers. The IMF is closely tied to the global economic recovery efforts and it was vital that a strong leader was appointed to help drive and promote worldwide growth.

2011 has brought challenges to the European Union in the form of sovereign debt risks and the attempts made by governments to tackle them. In the last three years Greece, Ireland and Portugal have received EU and IMF backed bailouts, which in partnership with strict state-encouraged austerity measures, are designed to help the member states get back on track. This road has

been long and difficult and has caused turmoil in markets, lack of consumer confidence and fluctuations in the Euro currency value.

As the democrats and the republican parties fought for the definitive say on a Senate proposal to raise the US debt ceiling this year, the offices of Standard and Poor's were working overtime to finalise a report which would soon strip the United States of its prized AAA credit rating. According to S&P, the rating downgrade reflected the belief that the soon to be finalised plan to stabilise the country's medium and short term debt problems was likely to fall short. Credit rating agency Fitch then reaffirmed the US's triple-A sovereign rating stating that: "The key pillars of the US's exceptional creditworthiness remain intact."

South America has seen some promise this year in the form of Brazil. The reasons for Brazil's success can be attributed to low setup costs in comparison to competitor countries, commitment to fiscal stability, responsible state policies that encourage investment and a large domestic demand for products and services. An important factor adding to the positive situation in Brazil and other emerging economies has been the currency appreciation against the euro and the dollar. Renewable energy sectors in particular are giving South American countries new opportunities for foreign investors seeking to boost their respective nations' energy resources.

The Chinese economy appears set to remain on a strong growth trajectory in 2011, lending credibility to the stimulus policies the regime rolled out during the global financial crisis. The government vows, in the 12th Five-Year Plan adopted in March 2011, to continue reforming the economy and emphasises the need to increase domestic consumption in order to make the economy less dependent on exports for GDP growth in the future.



# NORTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

## GLOBAL AWARD WINNERS

THE ECONOMIES OF NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ARE EXTREMELY DIVERSE. THE US AND CANADA HAVE SIMILARLY MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, WHILE THE ECONOMY OF THE CARIBBEAN IS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE US AND STILL UNDERGOING MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

The US has the largest and most technologically developed economy in the world. Business firms in the US enjoy a greater degree of flexibility compared to businesses in other regions in terms of innovation and expansion.

While the strategy for most companies in 2010 was about getting back to basics and weathering the storm of unemployment and recession, 2011 has been very different for North America.

As the Democrats and the Republicans fought for the definitive say on a Senate proposal to raise the US debt ceiling, the offices of Standard and Poor's were working overtime to finalise a report which would soon strip the United States of its prized AAA credit rating. According to S&P, the rating downgrade reflected the belief that the soon to be finalised plan to stabilise the country's medium and short term debt problems was likely to fall short. Credit rating agency Fitch then reaffirmed the US's triple-A sovereign rating stating that: "The key pillars of the US's exceptional creditworthiness remain intact."

Regardless of which rating agency has it right the global economy has now certainly changed. The country and its currency that modern economies have set their very existence to for the past 70 years has now revealed a very large weakness in its armour. S&P have commented that a further downgrade is possible in twelve months while Fitch says it will review the country's fiscal state again in November.

Canada is equipped with a high tech industrial economy, and resembles the US in its market oriented economic system, production pattern and high living standards.

Canada's economy, which has outperformed that of the US since the beginning of the financial crisis, is showing signs of slowing down. The housing market boom, which helped drive the country's recovery from recession, is starting to stall.

However, the housing market is being replaced by other drivers such as

business investment in machinery and equipment, and Canada is expected to lead the G7 nations in economic growth for another year at least. This can be attributed to several factors, including the country's sound banking system, its abundance of resources, and its lower levels of government debt.

The Caribbean has not escaped the global financial crisis, but the region withstood the difficulties more successfully than in past downturns. This is due to better macroeconomic management, more efficient structural policies, and a vigorous business sector.

The majority of the Caribbean's import-export business is with the United States, and most of the region's tourists are US citizens. This means that the US economy has a great deal of influence on the Caribbean, particularly as tourism is the primary industry of the region.

**"THE COUNTRY AND ITS CURRENCY THAT MODERN ECONOMIES HAVE SET THEIR VERY EXISTENCE TO FOR THE PAST 70 YEARS HAS NOW REVEALED A VERY LARGE WEAKNESS IN ITS ARMOUR."**

Despite the global economic turbulence, the Caribbean remains one of the world's most popular tourist regions, and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation saw tourism in the region grow by 3% in 2010.

Many islands in the Caribbean are now looking to expand their export base and privatise government-controlled industries in order to lessen their reliance on the US economy and to reduce the severity of future downturns.

## NORTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN GLOBAL AWARD WINNERS

194	Minken	Boutique Employment Law Firm of the Year in Canada
195	bacchus	Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year in Canada
195	Thorsteinssons LLP	Corporate Tax Law Firm of the Year in Canada
196	Woods LLP	Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Canada
196	The Feldstein Family Law Group	Family Law Firm of the Year in Canada
197	de Grandpré Chait	Real Estate Lawyer of the Year in Canada
198	Solomon Harris	Corporate Law Firm of the Year in Cayman Islands
199	KryS Global	Insolvency Law Firm of the Year in the Cayman Islands and White Collar Crime Law Firm of the Year in Cayman Islands
200	Théard & Associés	Full Service Law Firm of the Year in Haiti
200	Patterson Mair Hamilton	Business Law Firm of the Year in Jamaica
201	Fennemore Craig, P.C.	Litigation Attorney of the Year in Arizona
202	Bergman & Dacey	Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in California
203	Carico Johnson Toomey	Mid-Market Law Firm of the Year in California
203	Jampol Zimet LLP	Professional Liability Law Firm of Year in California
204	Friesen Lamb, LLP	Labor & Employment Attorney of the Year in Colorado
205	DRRT	Securities Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Florida
206	Eimer Stahl Klevorn & Solberg LLP	Antitrust Law Firm of the Year in Illinois
207	Jones Walker Waechter Poitevent Carrère & Denègre	Gaming & Licensing Law Firm of the Year in Louisiana
208	Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes	Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Mississippi
208	Wyrsh Hobbs & Mirakian	Business Crime Law Firm of the Year in Missouri
209	Dowd Bennett, LLP	White-Collar Crime Attorney of the Year in Missouri
210	Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler	Nationwide Advertising Litigation Law Firm of the Year
211	Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP	Bankruptcy Attorney of the Year - New York
212	Maalouf Ashford & Talbot	Cross-Border Law Firm of the Year in New York
213	McMahon DeGulis LLP	Natural Resources Law Firm of the Year in Ohio
214	Dunlap Coddling	Intellectual Property Attorney of the Year in Oklahoma
216	Law Office of NiaLena Caravasos	Criminal Defence Attorney of the Year in Pennsylvania
217	Martin, Disiere, Jefferson & Wisdom	Insurance Law Firm of the Year in Texas
218	Baker & McKenzie	Business Immigration Law Firm of the Year in Washington DC
218	Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck P.C	Intellectual Property Attorney of the Year in Washington DC
219	Ivins, Phillips & Barker	Tax Law Firm of the Year in Washington DC
220	Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.	Natural Resources Law Firm of the Year in Wisconsin and M&A Law Firm of the Year in Wisconsin (Clients' Choice)
222	Gass Weber Mullins LLC	Litigation Law Firm of the Year in Wisconsin



**"THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAN  
HAVE RESULTED FROM THE TRANSMISSION  
OF IDEAS OF ENTHUSIASM."**

- THOMAS J. WATSON



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**MARTIN, DISIERE, JEFFERSON & WISDOM, L.L.P. IS A LITIGATION BOUTIQUE WITH OFFICES IN HOUSTON, DALLAS AND AUSTIN, TEXAS. THE FIRM WAS FOUNDED ON JANUARY 1, 2000 AND HAS RECEIVED REPEATED ACCOLADES, RECOGNITION AND AWARDS FOR OUR TRIAL PROWESS AND OUR SUBSTANTIVE EXPERTISE.**

**PENNSYLVANIA - CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR**



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**"FOR THE BEST FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE...  
FOLLOW 'THE ROAD NOT TAKEN',"** - Robert Frost

**Selected as "2010 Pennsylvania Law Firm Of The Year in Criminal  
Law & White Collar Crime" by Corporate INTL Magazine.**

NiaLena Caravazos has earned the reputation as one of the top federal criminal defense lawyers in Philadelphia and of not being afraid to separate her clients and fight individually, strategically, creatively, and relentlessly. NiaLena has consistently risen in recognition for her talents in extremely complicated high-profile federal criminal trials involving extensive electronic surveillance, voluminous documentary evidence, and controversial clients:

- Youngest and only female attorney to defend a reputed mafia figure in the nearly 5-month federal RICO trial of U.S. v. Joseph Merlino. Following the jury's acquittal of her client of attempted murder and racketeering charges, NiaLena's closing argument was selected among nationwide submissions and spotlighted by the Center for Criminal Justice Advocacy in Houston and is also being used to this day as a teaching tool by professors nationwide.
- Youngest and only female member of the defense trial team representing Senator Vincent Fumo, long regarded as the most powerful politician in Pennsylvania, in his 5-month high-profile trial in federal

court, where NiaLena was the co-author of an emergency motion that made headline news in The New York Times and ABC News.

- Selected repeatedly by peers as a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer," NiaLena was the only female lawyer in private practice in Philadelphia recognized in "Criminal Defense" in 2011, 2009 & 2008.

- Honored repeatedly as a "Preeminent Lawyer in America" with the highest professional rating for legal ability and ethical standards (AV) by Martindale-Hubbell.

NiaLena is known for thinking outside the box, for not taking no for an answer, and for taking "the road less traveled by." She is honored and humbled by the praise of colleagues and clients:

- "A woman at the top of her game." (Washington, D.C. lawyer, Mark Schamel)
- "Impeccable integrity... gifted practitioner... extraordinary human being." (Philadelphia lawyer, Jeremy Gelb)
- "Passionate advocate... has established credibility with the Court and with her opponents." (Former Chief of Corruption in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of PA)
- "She tamed the beast of a system that could have ended my life in prison. Every decision she made was dead on, skillfully crafting my case to a very positive outcome... more than I ever hoped for." (Former CEO of his own company)
- "The person who gave me a new life... fighting the prosecution like a rabid pitbull. She sees me as a person and not a criminal... undoubtedly one of her strongest weapons in the courtroom." (Federal drug trafficking client whose "ending mirrored that of a fairytale and not a tragedy")

The firm has achieved state and national recognition for our expertise in the five areas in which we practice. The firm's principal strengths are in the areas of:

- Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Litigation
- Labor and Employment Counseling and Litigation
- Trial and Specialty Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation / Media Rights
- Lawyering for Lawyers
- State and Federal Appeals

The substantive expertise of our lawyers has been recognized in multiple state and national surveys of both American business leaders and lawyers. Some of our lawyers literally "wrote the book" in the areas in which they practice. This expertise provides the foundation for our efficiency and our creativity. Our lawyers do not have to figure out the law when handling our clients' cases - in many instances, we help to create the law.

What sets our firm apart from every other law firm? Our lawyers. Most importantly, we try cases. We are trial lawyers, not "litigators." Most law firms handle cases by over working them, over billing them, and then settling them. We do not. We love to try cases and it shows. The courtrooms of Texas are as comfortable to us as our own offices.

**The insurance practice group**

The insurance practice group of Martin, Disiere, Jefferson & Wisdom L.L.P. is one of the premiere insurance coverage and bad faith litigation firms in Texas. Our lawyers literally "wrote the book" on Texas insurance litigation. Repeatedly over the past decade, the lawyers with our firm helped shape important aspects of Texas insurance law. Do not just take our word for it - for the past five years Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers ranked our firm the top insurance litigation firm in Texas. Similar accolades have been given to our Insurance Practice Group by: Best

Lawyers; LGM's Guide to the World's Leading Insurance and Reinsurance Lawyers; and Texas Monthly Magazine's "Super Lawyers" survey.

We are trial lawyers known for our ability to win coverage and bad faith cases in Texas and other jurisdictions. From the claim stage to an appeal, we have the expertise the insurance industry repeatedly turns to for assistance. At the claims stage, we provide our clients with objective interpretations of a wide variety of insurance contracts. When disputes arise, we provide creative advice on the rights and obligations of the parties to an insurance contract. In litigation, we routinely prosecute and defend coverage lawsuits across Texas and in other jurisdictions as well.

When our clients are alleged to have committed bad faith, Insurance Code violations, deceptive trade practices, violations of the Stowers Doctrine, or other acts of negligence, our firm is regularly retained to defend those allegations and, if necessary, to win those cases at trial.

We also work with some clients in drafting policy language to avoid future litigation. We are frequently called upon to train adjusters to minimize future risks. We realize that helping our clients avoid claims and lawsuits is one of the greatest services we can provide. When litigation is inevitable and our clients want to maximize their chances of winning, they know our lawyers have an unparalleled track record of winning coverage and bad faith cases at the courthouse.

**"WHEN DISPUTES ARISE, WE PROVIDE  
CREATIVE ADVICE ON THE RIGHTS AND  
OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES TO AN  
INSURANCE CONTRACT. IN LITIGATION,  
WE ROUTINELY PROSECUTE AND DEFEND  
COVERAGE LAWSUITS ACROSS TEXAS AND  
IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS AS WELL."**