

California LAWYER

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We honor 44 lawyers for their extraordinary achievements in 2009.

by the editors of California Lawyer

The California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Awards recognize lawyers throughout the state whose legal work made a profound impact in 2009. They include a state Assembly member, law professors, sole practitioners, and lawyers from large international law firms. Their practice areas range from appellate law and intellectual property to employment law and disability rights. Among their successes: winning a record whistleblower settlement against a defense contractor, negotiating the first loan guarantee from the Department of Energy for a solar-panel manufacturing plant, and setting a precedent on the federal courts' ability to cap state prison populations. Altogether, we identify 27 accomplishments in 17 areas of legal practice that reflect the breadth of the California State Bar. Congratulations to all the winners. —*Chuleenan Svetvilas*



ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR



Jeffrey R. Chanin

Keker & Van Nest, San Francisco

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A TEAM OF TRIAL LAWYERS LED BY CHANIN scored one of the largest trade secret misappropriation victories in recent years and resolved a key dispute that has roiled the semiconductor industry for most of a decade. The dustup between two Chinese semiconductor foundries—among the world's largest—came to a head last fall in Alameda County Superior Court. There the litigators argued a nine-week trial for Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) against its rival, Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. (SMIC). Chanin and his Keker & Van Nest colleagues **Brian L. Ferrall** and **Ashok Ramani** convinced the jury that SMIC illegally obtained 61 trade secrets from TSMC and breached a 2005 settlement agreement. In a settlement that quickly followed the verdict, SMIC agreed to pay TSMC \$200 million in damages, plus \$130 million in stock. The closely watched case demonstrated to the semiconductor industry that California trade secret laws can be used to protect the intellectual property of foreign companies that do business here.

