

# WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

If you haven't seen "To Kill a Mockingbird" or "My Cousin Vinny," you might want to put them in your NetFlix queue. Judging from this year's crop of Top Washington Lawyers, they're the best lawyer movies ever made.

We discovered that, and several other interesting things about this year's crop of honorees. It's our best yet – an elite team of lawyers whose practice serves companies based in the Washington region and the issues that matter most to them.

We had nearly 400 nominations for this year's class. As we do every year, we disqualified a number of them (some of them big, big names) right off the bat – not because they're not great legal minds, but because they work for official Washington rather than Washington business. We were left with an excellent group to choose from, including an exceptionally strong class of Young Guns – legal eagles just on the cusp of greatness.

This publication and its honorees represent the best legal talent in Washington business. We're proud to present them to you.

- Alex Orfinger

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### FINALIST



**STEPHEN MAEBIUS**  
Partner, Foley & Lardner

So many things led to Stephen Maebius focusing his law career on bio-technology and life sciences. A major in biology, a great-grandfather who was head of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and a college paper on patenting living organisms.

"The act of writing that paper convinced me this was going to be an exciting field," Maebius says.

His first job out of school was as a biotechnology patent examiner in the U.S. Patent Office while he went to law school at night. Today he's the leader of the nanotechnology industry team at Foley & Lardner.

One of his most memorable moments in his career was a patent infringement case involving a chemical company that claimed another firm had developed a product identical to a product it had patented. Maebius worked with an expert witness who was intricately

familiar with the product but didn't have a college education. The opposing side used a highly educated professor with a Ph.D. Not only did Maebius and his firm win the case but the judge threw out the opposing side's expert witness report.

"The common sense approach beat out the fancy science," he says.

**Age:** 39

**Family:** Married, four daughters

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas

**Residence:** Great Falls

**Law school:** George Washington University, J.D., 1994

**Favorite lawyer movie:** "The Verdict"

**If you didn't go to law school you would be** a marine biologist.

**Last book read:** "Animal Kisses" by Barney Saltzberg (to my daughter)

# TOP WASHINGTON LAWYERS