

**Mark Wood's Remarks Accepting the Firm's Award for
The American Lawyer's 2004 "Litigation Department of the Year"**

Thank you – to the *American Lawyer* for its selection of our adversarial practice as the Litigation Department of the Year. Thanks particularly to Aric Press for his effort in conducting this search and to Susan Beck for her wonderful article which really captured the essence of what makes our firm very special to us.

Throughout her article, there are many quotes and references in which we took great pride, but I was particularly pleased that Susan noted the following:

“At O’Melveny & Myers, diverse talents come together to produce exceptional results in groundbreaking cases. It’s not just results like these that make O’Melveny stand out. It’s also a culture centered on teamwork and collegiality.” We believe our values are as important as our results.

Thank you to our wonderful clients, some of which are here with us tonight. We are privileged to be able to represent you.

Thank you to my colleagues at O'Melveny for their hard work and generous spirit. Particular thanks go our Chairman AB Culvahouse and to friends such as Warren Christopher and Bill Coleman for their leadership, mentoring and example.

Litigation is interesting, challenging – at times exhilarating. It also involves lots of hard work.

Thank you to those teams of associates, paralegals and assistants who support us day-in and day-out as we tackle tough, time-consuming, often exhausting jobs. I want to especially thank my lovely wife, Sharon, who represents all the others in the O'Melveny family who are as much responsible for our success as those of us who sit behind the desks.

I am so proud to be a lawyer – and a litigator. We have a wonderful system in this Country – developed over many years and many cases – and with important contributions by many in this room. Our most important issues, our major problems, social and economic, and sometimes liberty itself are decided on the basis of reason and fairness through the litigation process.

I am blessed to have been able to be a lawyer and a litigator. I am proud to have started out learning my trade as a Judge Advocate in the United States Marine Corps, and lucky to have been taken in and nurtured by my predecessors and colleagues at O'Melveny & Myers. Thank you again on behalf of our firm for this wonderful award.