To have clout is to be able to land a blow—to shape the world and the way it works.

In compiling this year’s edition of The National Law Journal’s Most Influential Lawyers list, we looked for attorneys who demonstrated that ability in 10 specific practice areas during the past five years.

We weighed nominations from our readers and conducted extensive research before selecting 34 attorneys who are shaping the law, the economy, the physical fabric of the United States and the world.

—Michael Moline, assistant managing editor
John Trotter is has built a career by remaining neutral. Now serving as a special master in the multidistrict Toyota sudden-acceleration cases, he was a founding member of JAMS. The former California Court of Appeal justice has resolved more than 3,000 cases through alternative dispute resolution and has served as special master in numerous high-profile pharmaceutical multidistrict disputes. Most recently, he was special master in mass tort actions involving Rezulin and arbitrated huge securities cases involving CitiGroup Financial Services. He has mediated more than 100 cases involving Kaiser Permanente’s alleged mishandling of kidney transplants. He was settlement master in cases involving Zyprexa and Vioxx, to name a few.