

## D.C.'S RISING STARS

Washington, D.C., is a magnet for the top graduates from the top law schools in some of the most sophisticated practices in the nation, including appellate and antitrust. So for the NLJ's 2017 Rising Stars list, how did we go about reviewing a large pool of smart, young nominees? Very carefully. We looked for key elements including success on the highest stages, diversity of practice groups and law firms. We also looked closely at recommendations. We are proud to present our 2017 Rising Stars. This year, we share their keys to success in their own words, edited for clarity and length. —*Lisa Helem, managing editor*

A SPECIAL REPORT



### STEPHEN MCBRADY, 38

FIRM: CROWELL & MORING

PRACTICE: GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

TITLE: PARTNER

■ **WHAT WAS THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF PRACTICE?** The value of good mentors. I benefited greatly from getting early responsibility in my case work and receiving solid advice from experienced lawyers. I have carried that lesson forward as I mentor the next generation of lawyers, who are eager to make their mark.

■ **DESCRIBE YOUR BIGGEST WIN OR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN PRACTICE.** I have had courtroom victories [of up] to \$250 million this year, but helping lead Crowell & Moring's government contracts claims recovery practice has been my most rewarding challenge. We are currently pursuing [more than] \$1 billion in claims for clients in various industries.

■ **WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR GREATEST LAWYER MENTOR?** Working closely with Terry Albertson, one of the deans of the government contracts bar, as a young lawyer taught me [that] success begins and ends with excellent lawyering and that clients appreciate "straight talk."

■ **PLEASE SHARE A KEY TO YOUR SUCCESS.** Every morning at 5, I walk to Starbucks to read trade publications. I want to know industry developments and share [them] with clients. My job is to help clients see what's next and plan for success.

**crowell**  **moring**