

HARTFORD BUSINESS JOURNAL

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40 UNDER FORTY

New leaders for a new Hartford!

Congratulations to our eighth annual group of 40 Under Forty winners! As you'll see throughout this special issue of the *Hartford Business Journal*, they have accomplished a great deal in a short time.

Sharing their stories with you not only celebrates their achievements, but also may put a mirror up to your own efforts. As you'll see, professional accomplishment is only one measure of what it takes to be on the 2004 40 Under Forty team. Our judges — Anne Evans, Larry Brown and Lou Golden — also look carefully for community service and other "giving back" activities among the people vying to be chosen to receive this award.

It was an easy choice this year to assemble our young business and professional leaders at several of Hartford's new development projects. This is an exciting time for the city, and no publication has carried more words and pictures about Hartford's changing skyline than the *HBJ*.

We know there are many uncertainties about the region's future, including delays on the mixed-use Front Street project and whether it will even be built in its currently planned form.

But we also know that Hartford has badly needed an economic development boost, and that we now have one. Seeing the building cranes in the air, seeing new people moving downtown and seeing new retail businesses crop up to serve them represents the best hope the city will see in a generation to create more prosperity for the people and businesses that are already here.

This window of business opportunity is opening wider as the new levels of construction move higher, and now is the time to seize the moment, to help create a new image for the city and the region.

Seizing the moment is one of the most common attributes of this year's 40 Under Forty winners.

We hope you enjoy their stories, and that you can join us in honoring them at a special breakfast on Friday, Sept. 17 at the Bond Hotel.

Sincerely,
Philip Moeller
Editor



Robert Reginald Simpson

Age: 35

Title: Partner

Company: Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Company Location: Hartford

Residence: West Hartford

Career Highlights:

I have been blessed to have successfully defended large corporations such as UTC, General Motors and Ford. I have also had great trial victories for small businesses and individuals. In particular, I have, with the efforts of key lawyers from Greater Hartford Legal Aid, represented 300,000 recipients of Medicaid in a class action suit involving their fight for adequate dental care throughout Connecticut. In 2002, I was recognized by the *Connecticut Law Tribune* as a "Leader of the Law." I also received the Judge Maxwell Heiman Award from the Hartford County Bar Association in 2002.

Community Volunteerism Highlights:

In 2002-2004, with the assistance of a wonderful committee, I helped to spearhead a town meeting series: Disparities in Health Care; the State of Education in Hartford — A Look at Sheff v. O'Neill; and Affirmative Action — The University of Michigan Decision.

In 2001, I was humbled by being awarded the Inroads Frank C. Carr community service award. I have been involved in the development of youth through Inroads, the Pathfinder Scout Group and numerous city, state and national organizations. I also helped to



start the Phi Beta Sigma Hartford Scholastic Challenge, an annual debate and academic competition for Hartford area high schools.

Biggest Success:

In 1997, I filed a lawsuit on behalf of a Hartford area gospel radio station, PRAZYE FM, against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This is the first time that the FCC was challenged over its unconstitutional practice of not allowing community radio stations access to the airwaves. As a result of the lawsuit, PRAYZE FM was able to broadcast for two years, during which time it acquired funds to operate a cable radio broadcast.

Dream Job:

I am living my dream job. I would like to devote more time to motivational speaking to youth, and preaching in churches throughout the Northeast.

Businessperson You Most Admire:

I admire Michele Coleman Mayes, senior vice president and general counsel of Pitney Bowes. Michele is able to succeed in corporate America without losing her identity as an African American woman. I have seen many top corporate executives who have sold their soul for "success." Michele enhances her employees and company by letting her image shine. She also serves as a beacon of light to the community through her work with numerous civic and professional organizations.