

CHAMPIONS VISIONARIES PIONEERS

VISIONARIES

In tough times, these attorneys found ways to build up their law firms. In complex legal clashes, they pushed for wise solutions. And in government disputes, they insisted on democratic and constitutional answers.



CHRISTOPHER CURRAN

WHITE & CASE

Christopher Curran was the only private attorney in the room as his client, the government of Libya, tried to hammer out an agreement with the U.S. government regarding 20 terrorism claims stemming back to the 1980s. The claims threatened the warming relations between the United States and Libya, and Curran, a White & Case partner in Washington, has been tapped by Libya to orchestrate bilateral negotiations. In less than a year, Curran helped broker a deal in which Libya agreed to pay about \$1.5 billion to victims' families in exchange for immunity from future terrorism-related suits. In what must be an understatement, Curran noted, "There were a lot of delicate steps." The August 2008 deal has since passed congressional muster. "Our country has a history of working to start relationships anew with countries that have been called into question, and one way to do that is through treaties like this one," Curran said. —JEFF JEFFREY