

Attorney who is Eastern will join practice berg, the two-time Southern ous high-partment. ff to for- s Comey, ral John r Robert General rg as his 7. In June ney in the lexandria, chmond. ey is Oct. take two e practice. wouldn't comment. Rosenberg also declined to



ent could be on the hook for hundreds of mil- appeals court determines U.S. Forest Service ble for the spread of a wildfire in California es. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal *United States* last week. **Mark Grotefeld** of o argued the government created the conditions st Service firefighters have for decades swiftly ather than let blazes burn—to protect wildlife, arks. By squelching fires, Grotefeld argued, the h that fuels wildfires. The Justice Department's a lost hunter, not the government, is directly

responsible for the fire. Circuit Judges **Richard Linn**, **H. Robert Mayer**, and **Kimberly Moore** did not immediately rule, though Linn linked cases of wildfire and flood. In *Cotton Land Co. v. United States*, the government was held responsible for permanent flooding tied to the building of a dam. "It seems to me there are some very strong parallels there," Linn said. —MIKE SCARCELLA

■ **Carter's Complaint.** Sidley Austin's Supreme Court honcho **Carter Phillips**, like his rivals, has been known to grumble that the justices turn down too many perfectly good cases. Not many advocates would have the chutzpah to air that complaint before all nine justices during oral argument. But Phillips did just that on Oct. 6, the opening day of the Court's term. He was arguing in an arbitration case, *Vaden v. Discover Bank*. Justice **David Souter** asked about appealing a similar case from a state court to the Supreme Court, and Phillips replied, "Well, I wish it were that easy to get this Court to grant review of everything that I bring up here in the first place." Chief Justice **John Roberts Jr.**, his one-time rival in the Supreme Court bar, replied, "You don't have any trouble." Phillips said, "I appreciate that." Afterward, Phillips said, "I laughed along with everyone else in the Court." He estimates that over his 23 years in private practice, the justices have granted about 15 percent of the roughly 300 petitions he has filed. He has argued 60 cases before the Court. "I hope the Court doesn't get tired of seeing me at the podium any time soon," says Phillips. —TONY MAURO

■ **Limited Justice.** The District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission unveiled its new report on the need for civil legal services among low-income District residents last week, finding that it far exceeds available help. The report examined several areas of legal services, focusing specifically on civil legal issues, since unlike criminal cases, a person facing civil claims is not entitled to free representation. By surveying legal services providers and community-based organizations and collecting data from the D.C. courts and the Office of Administrative Hearings, the report found that the majority of low-income residents are unaware of their legal rights. The report was unveiled at **DLA Piper's** 8th St. N.W. offices. D.C. Mayor **Adrian Fenty**, D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge **Lee Satterfield**, D.C. Court of Appeals Chief Judge **Eric Washington**, and a number of the DLA lawyers who drafted the report pro bono were among the crowd. **Sara Moghadam**, a litigation partner who helped lead the DLA team of lawyers and summer associates that put together the report, says the point is to raise awareness about the lack of civil legal services available. DLA is pro bono counsel to the Access to Justice Commission and began working on the project in 2005. —MARISA MCQUILKEN

*it please her Honour*



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