

Presenting the 2016

fastcase 50

Honoring the law's smartest,  
most courageous innovators,  
techies, visionaries, & leaders.

2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016

The Fastcase 50 class of 2016 includes the retirement of some legends, the entry of a new class of legal tech entrepreneurs, and some noteworthy advocates for open government. The past year was a time of great change – from law schools to firms, from in-house lawyers to the government. That change can be daunting or discouraging, and that's one reason that our team enjoys celebrating the accomplishments of the Fastcase 50. These are people who inspire us by their intelligence, creativity, and leadership. We hope they will inspire others as well. Once again, you submitted some spectacular nominations, and we are pleased to honor the Fastcase 50 Class of 2016.



**Ray Abadin**  
Partner, Sedgwick LLP

As past president of both the Florida Bar and Cuban American Bar Association, Ray Abadin made it a point to emphasize the importance of technology competence for lawyers, coming changes in the delivery of legal services, as well as access to justice.

Ray is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and partner at Sedgwick LLP, who deals in complex commercial and tort cases. Often his work involves class actions, making organization and speed essential to his practice in and out of the courtroom. Ray's background lent itself well to Vision 2016, a comprehensive study conducted by The Florida Bar to prepare attorneys for the future of practice.



**Janet Howe Accardo**  
Library Director (Retired),  
Skadden, Arps, Slate,  
Meagher & Flom LLP

Janet Accardo recently retired as library director at Skadden, after having been a mainstay of library professionalism in New York for more than four decades

—at only two places, Ernst & Young (1972-1992) and Skadden (1992-2016). She joined Ernst & Young after undergraduate studies at Wellesley College and the College of Wooster (English Literature/Letters) and graduate studies at SUNY Albany (MLS). The ancient aphorism "suaviter in modo, fortiter in re" (civil in style, solid in substance) might well have been crafted for Janet. She serves as a reminder that, on the one hand successful information professionals must never stop acquiring and expanding their stores of technical knowledge, management expertise, strategic vision and budgetary precision, and on the other that these vital skills are not inconsistent with civility, courtesy, good humor, and graciousness even now—indeed, especially now.



**Marvin Ammori**  
General Counsel,  
Hyperloop One

One of the most prominent defenders of Internet freedom and the First Amendment, Marvin Ammori does not shy away from a battle. He heads up The Ammori Group, which

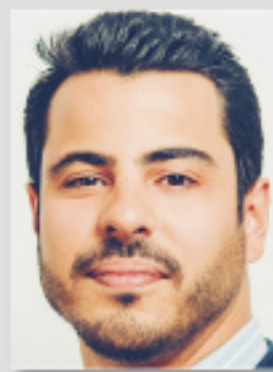
has been a major player in more than one policy fight on Capitol Hill. Some of his previous clients include Google, Apple, Dropbox, Twitter, and Tumblr. From helping to kill SOPA and protect net neutrality, to serving on the board of Demand Progress, it's no wonder Marvin recently won the prestigious Nyan Cat Medal of Internet Awesomeness. Now Ammori is part of the team trying to build Elon Musk's design for the Hyperloop, using electric propulsion and an autonomous vehicle that levitates slightly above a low-pressure track to glide at faster-than-airline speeds over long distances.



**Peter Aprile**  
Founder, Counter Tax  
Lawyers

Peter Aprile is the founder of Counter Tax Lawyers, a Canadian tax law firm that has leveraged technology and built software tools such as its proprietary tax dispute and litigation application, CounterPoint, to build

stronger cases and give its clients a unique competitive advantage. Counter's emphasis on adaptive strategies and computer-assisted efficiency has received praise and led one legal publication to remark that Peter has "sparked a tech revolution in tax law."



**Andrew Arruda**  
CEO and Co-Founder,  
ROSS Intelligence

Machine learning has conquered chess, Jeopardy!, and Go. It flies airplanes, assists in surgery, and drives cars. Can we seriously doubt that it will change the practice of law

as well? Andrew Arruda helped create ROSS Intelligence as part of a team at the University of Toronto, applying IBM's Watson to legal research, starting with bankruptcy. ROSS Intelligence can process natural language legal questions and reply with highly relevant passages that answer the question, and it can learn from its successes and failures. This has been a fast year for Andrew and his team, securing funding from the Dentons Nextlaw Labs and early subscriptions from major law firms.



**Alma Asay**  
Founder and CEO,  
Allegory

When it comes to working with hundreds or thousands of documents during complex litigation, many an attorney has thought "there has got to be a better way."

Alma Asay was a litigator at Gibson Dunn, when she turned that thought into a reality. She created Allegory, a cloud-based software platform for managing case information, so that lawyers could manage litigation with tools beyond Excel spreadsheets and shared folders. Allegory now has clients across the country, helping lawyers automate tedious tasks, run helpful queries, connect key pieces of information, and win cases.