

# National Journal People

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## At the Bar

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The well-known story overheard at Greenberg Traurig is that James Bacchus started the law firm's Orlando office in 1995 with a car phone. Now Bacchus is returning to chair Greenberg Traurig's Global Trade Practice Group. He expects to divide his time between Orlando and Washington. Bacchus recently completed an eight-year tenure as the first American member of the appellate body of the World Trade Organization. He spent the past two years as its chairman. Merit Janow, a Columbia Uni-

versity professor, has succeeded him as the American member of the panel. Bacchus took a leave of absence from Greenberg Traurig two and half years ago when the WTO job became a full-time commitment in Geneva. During his two terms in Congress from 1991 to 1995 as a Democratic representative from Florida, Bacchus dealt with trade issues extensively. "I was one of the members of the House of Representatives who had actually read the GATT," he jokes, referring to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The workload of the WTO judges has increased dramatically in recent years, according to Bacchus. He helped judge disputes involving billions of dollars of trade

annually, dealing with everything from bananas to automobiles to semiconductors to shrimp. Bacchus pointed out the significance of the WTO's recent decision that led the Bush administration to lift tariffs on imported steel. Feeling a sense of accomplishment, the 54-year-old lawyer thought it was a good time to move on. "A week after the decision was final, The New York Times compared that decision to *Marbury v. Madison*. And I knew then that it was time to leave. My work was done." ■

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