

■ **Land Man.** He's back from Iraq and is returning to K Street. **Michael Hardiman**, who has owned **Hardiman Consulting** since 1999, is lobbying on behalf of the **American Land Rights Association**. The ALRA focuses on issues concerning private-property owners' access to public lands. Historically, it has represented individuals who own property on or near federal land holdings. But Hardiman, who has previously been a consultant for the **American Conservative Union**, the **American Trucking Associations**, and **Grasslyn Inc.**, just returned from Iraq after a two-year stint working for the **Baghdad City Government**, for which he set up an inspector general's office and implemented public-disclosure regulations for agency budgets. He also was an adviser to the **Commission on Public Integrity**, a federal government agency created by the **Iraqi**

**Governing Council** under the **Coalition Provisional Authority**. The agency, which has auditing, arrest, and detaining powers, has focused on documenting white-collar crime in Iraq. Hardiman, who worked from 1993 to 1999 for Rep. **Richard Pombo** (R-Calif.), is cagey about how he came to work in Iraq and how his career path aroused the interest of the **Department of Defense**. He merely offers that he received an unexpected call from the Pentagon in late 2003. "We are familiar with your work and we'd like you to come in," Hardiman recalls of the phone conversation. Since he's been back in the United States, the 46-year-old has also worked for the **National Federation of Independent Business**, in a nonlobbying role, and for the **BlueRibbon Coalition**, which advocates for motorized recreational vehicle owners' access to public lands. —JOE CREA



DIEGO M. RADZINSCHI

**BACK IN THE SADDLE:** Michael Hardiman is back on the lobbyhorse after a stint in Iraq.

Reprinted with permission from the July 31, 2006 edition of Legal Times, ALM Properties, Inc. All rights reserved. Further duplication without permission is prohibited.