



ing to an end and he has decided not run again, a decision which was hard to make. "I love my role as mayor and helping people and making "my" small corner of America as good as it can be," he shares with a sigh. "However, the demands of my legal career leave me with little choice." Those demands became evermore pressing when he accepted the role of Managing Partner of his firm. He also plays the role of father and husband. Wildes is married to Amy Messer Wildes, an attorney as well, whom he met in his father's Immigration Law class at Cardozo. Amy is an associate at Wildes & Weinberg. They have four beautiful children together.



(Top) Michael Wildes with President Barack Obama, (Bottom) Senator Joe Lieberman with Michael

Despite his stepping away from the political arena, those who know him also anticipate the next role he will assume. It's rumored that he has his eye on Congress and that Democratic leadership has its eye on him. The Democratic Leadership Council has listed Wildes on the "One Hundred to Watch" list which profiles 100 new Democratic leaders around the country who are on the quick rise. as such, he has worked with the late Edward Kennedy, Hillary Clinton, Joseph Lieberman, Nancy Pelosi, and John Kerry, who have recognized and appreciated his fundraising prowess. Most recently,

he has been a strong supporter of the re-election bid of New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, who appointed Wildes to a statewide "Blue Ribbon State Panel on Immigration Policy"—a recognition of his talents and expertise in U.S. immigration law and policy.

But ribbons do not make the man. In his heart resonates the ever-present voice of

his departed mother who taught him that it's more important to be a mensch than to be a mayor or a senator. And it is by those guiding principles that Wildes leads his life. "One day I know I'll be the former something—former mayor, former senator, a former something," Wildes says realistically. But with steadfast values he will make certain the day never comes when he'll be the former Michael Wildes. **M**