



INCOMING FEED.....

or needs, directly or indirectly: his employment, his home, his entertainment, his food and drink, his clothes, and, if he works for one of them, most likely his ideas and his outlook on life. Their power rivals that of governments, and they're accountable to no one save their shareholders and the Corporate Court.

### EXTRATERRITORIALITY

How did the megacorporations get so powerful (in addition to creating or having a hand in just about everything we buy)? One word: extraterritoriality. What this means is that the megacorps essentially make their own rules within their own territory—governmental authority can't touch them and can't enforce laws on them. Similar to the way a country's embassy is considered a part of that country regardless of where it's located, extraterritoriality means that megacorps call their own tune on their own turf. Only the Corporate Court can confer extraterritorial status; all the megas have it, naturally, and it's a coveted prize among the second-tier AA mega-wannabes.

### GUARDING THE HENHOUSE

Consisting of 13 justices drawn from the ranks of the Big 10 megacorps, the Corporate Court represents the only authority that has any chance of riding herd over the megacorporations. In reality it has no way to enforce its directives, but the megas follow them nonetheless because they all real-

ize that if they allow things to devolve into chaos, that will hurt the bottom line for all of them. Since profits are what it's all about, this is a powerful motivator.

The Corp Court is based at the Zurich Orbital habitat, which happens to be *the* most secure facility on or off Earth. Most of the justices live there, but some commute by shuttle or communicate via Matrix connection.

### IN THE FAMILY

For the average citizen with a SIN, a spouse, a mortgage, and 2.4 children, employment with a megacorporation is a good thing to aspire to. When you join a corp, you join an extended family, business nation-state, or driven meritocracy, depending on the corp in question—each has its own culture. It's not uncommon for people to join up right out of college (agreements even prior to this aren't unheard of for certain key prospects) and remain employed at the same corp—advancing up the corporate ladder and living in the cozy confines of a corporate arcology—until their retirement. If you're a loyal employee, the corp takes care of your every need; in the case of some of the largest, there's no real need to ever leave corp territory if you don't want to—they provide literally everything you could want. It's only when employees (especially those highly valued for their uncommon skills) get itchy feet that things can start getting uncomfortable. The corps expect and enforce loyalty in return for their beneficence.