

Ten Gould & Ratner LLP Attorneys Named Illinois Super Lawyers; Six Attorneys Named "Rising Stars" for 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2012

CHICAGO – Gould & Ratner LLP, legal and business advisors to entrepreneurs, closely held family-owned, middle market, and *Fortune 500* companies, is pleased to announce that ten of its attorneys have been named Illinois *Super Lawyers* for 2012 in a survey conducted by *Super Lawyers*®, a Thomson Reuters business. Additionally, six attorneys have been designated "Rising Stars" in Illinois law.

The nomination process has three phases: the creation of a candidate pool; research and evaluation of each candidate; and a review of candidates by their peers within their practice areas. Candidates are evaluated based numerous indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. The *Super Lawyers* research department searches biographies on law firm web sites, online and database sources, legal periodicals, and information supplied through the *Super Lawyers* web site.

The Rising Stars category recognizes lawyers that are under the age of 40 or have been in practice for 10 years or less. While up to 5 percent of lawyers in the state are named to *Super Lawyers*, no more than 2.5 percent are named to the Rising Stars list.

The complete list of Illinois *Super Lawyers* appears in the 2012 Illinois *Super Lawyers* magazine, which features articles about attorneys named to the list and in select consumer newspapers and magazines. *Super Lawyers* is also distributed to all attorneys in the state, lead corporate counsel, and ABA-approved law school libraries.

Congratulations to the following Gould & Ratner LLP attorneys named Illinois *Super Lawyers* in these practice area categories:

Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights

Christopher J. Horvay - Chris concentrates his practice in the representation of senior creditors and asset-based lenders in complex litigation, workout, and bankruptcy matters. His practice involves the

representation of asset-based lenders in complex commercial foreclosures and litigation disputes as well as the representation of creditor committees in litigation relating to fraudulent conveyances. Chris can be reached at chorvay@gouldratner.com.

Mark E. Leipold - Mark is the Chair of the Business Counseling and Transactional Group and represents creditors, lenders, landlords, debtors, trustees, examiners, and other parties-in-interest in sophisticated workout and bankruptcy matters. Mark's practice includes sophisticated commercial litigation, including fraudulent transfer and preference litigation. His clients range from high net worth individuals to multi-billion dollar publicly traded companies. Mark's practice also emphasizes asset-based lending and other secured transactions. Mark can be reached at mleipold@gouldratner.com.

Pia Thompson - Pia practices in the areas of commercial restructuring, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, and litigation. She has handled all aspects of Chapter 11 proceedings, including debtor representation, creditor committee representation, representation of individual creditors, representation of buyers in 363 sales, and the retention of professionals. In the area of litigation, Pia has handled class action securities litigation, MDL product liability actions, and complex financial fraud litigation involving accountants and lenders, as well as directors and officers liability actions and injunctions involving covenants not to compete. Pia can be reached at pthompson@gouldratner.com.

Business Litigation

Robert A. Carson - Bob represents public companies, privately held businesses, and individuals in complex commercial litigation, having tried numerous jury and non-jury lawsuits and arbitration in state and federal courts in Illinois and other jurisdictions. Bob defends business owners in shareholder and partnership litigation, real estate developers and contractors in construction and other disputes, and represents entrepreneurs in their litigation needs. Bob can be reached at rcarson@gouldratner.com.

Employment & Labor

David N. Michael - David is the Chair of Gould & Ratner's Human Resources and Employment Law Group. David concentrates his practice on management-side human resources and employment law. As a human resources consultant and employment lawyer, he has three main responsibilities: training, counseling, and litigating. He is also the editor and primary author of Gould & Ratner's *Employment E-Iert*, a newsletter on current topics in Human Resources and Employment Law. David can be reached at dmichael@gouldratner.com.

Estate Planning & Probate

Thomas A. Korman - Tom has worked in the business, financial, and tax planning field for more than 30

years and is also a Certified Public Accountant. Tom has extensive experience in representing entrepreneurs, investors, families, and family businesses and institutions. He has represented clients in a variety of industries including insurance, homeland security, cheese manufacturing, technology, mines and minerals, banking, and consulting services. His representation includes a variety of sophisticated transactions, including acquisitions and divestitures, mergers, reorganizations, and recapitalizations. Tom can be reached at tkorman@gouldratner.com.

Mergers & Acquisitions

Fredric D. Tannenbaum - Fred is recognized by the Illinois Venture Capital Association as a leading expert on private equity and venture capital, by a national bar association organization as a leading authority on mergers and acquisitions, and by the leading business publication, *Crain's Chicago Business*, as a top expert on family-owned businesses. Fred has represented more than 250 middle market businesses, private equity or venture capital funds, sophisticated entrepreneurs, wealthy family businesses, and senior key executives in more than 500 mergers/acquisitions/divestitures/strategic alliance transactions and more than 250 venture capital transactions over the last 20 years. He is a Managing Partner of the firm. Fred can be reached at ftannenbaum@gouldratner.com.

Real Estate

David M. Arnburg - David advises owners, developers, and lessees of commercial and industrial real estate. A significant portion of his real estate practice involves leasing and management of commercial office buildings. David's practice also includes advice to clients on the form and structure of real estate ownership, ground leases, acquisition and sale of commercial properties, financing of real estate projects, property management agreements, and construction contracts. David can be reached at darnburg@gouldratner.com.

John H. Mays - John is a Managing Partner of the firm. His practice focuses on real estate development with emphasis on land use, development and construction. He represents clients in all phases of the development process, from the acquisition, zoning, financing, and construction of buildings and projects through their ultimate leasing or disposition. His broad experience representing owner's, lenders and contractor's allows him to craft both practical and legal solutions to the challenges facing clients in the development and construction areas. John can be reached at jmays@gouldratner.com.

Stephen P. Sandler - Steve is a member of the firm's Management Committee. He has spent more than 30 years counseling and advising developer and investor clients in the acquisition, disposition, leasing, development, financing, and structuring of all types of real estate and real estate transactions. Steve's experience includes major office buildings, hotels, apartment buildings, industrial buildings, and unimproved land. He has specialized expertise in structuring transactions and all phases of financing including

construction, interim, permanent, mezzanine, securitized, and equity funding, provided by banks, institutions, pension funds, REITs, and private lenders. Steve can be reached at atssandler@gouldratner.com.

The following Gould & Ratner LLP attorneys have been recognized as Rising Stars for 2012 in these categories:

Business/Corporate

Peter C. Spier – Peter's practice is concentrated on the representation of mid-market businesses, private equity funds, investors, and entrepreneurs in entity formation and structuring, mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, capital raising, and debt and equity financing transactions. He also regularly represents gaming industry clients in transactional, licensing and regulatory matters. Peter can be reached at pspier@gouldratner.com.

Business Litigation

Joseph P. Bonavita – Joe focuses his practice in the area of commercial litigation, where he has been involved in a wide range of antitrust, contracts, employment, gaming, intellectual property, and real estate disputes. Joe represents and counsels clients on a range of matters, including copyright, trademark, and domain name registration and litigation. In the area of gaming, Joe represents clients in litigation and counsels clients on regulatory, licensing, and compliance matters. Joe can be reached at jbonavita@gouldratner.com.

Stephanie A. Petersmarck - Stephanie's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and client counseling, including matters involving class actions, regulatory fraud and abuse, consumer fraud, product liability, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, real estate and development disputes, securities violations, professional malpractice, and employment-related matters. She has extensive experience in all phases of litigation, internal investigations, and counseling clients on statutory and regulatory matters, best practices, and business standards and solutions. Stephanie can be reached at spetersmarck@gouldratner.com.

Eric P. Sparks - Eric focuses his practice in the area of commercial litigation, including disputes involving construction, pharmaceutical development and registration, real estate, employment, shareholder, and trusts and estates. He has experience in jury trials, binding arbitration proceedings, and appellate proceedings. Eric can be reached at esparks@gouldratner.com.

Estate Planning and Probate

Julie S. Pleshivoy - Julie's practice is concentrated primarily in estate planning and family office

administration. She has experience in developing and implementing estate plans for high net worth individuals and families, including preparing complex wealth transfer strategies. Julie counsels clients on all aspects of estate planning and business succession planning, with particular focus on asset ownership and structure, retirement planning, and charitable planning. Julie can be reached at jpleshivoy@gouldratner.com.

Real Estate

Linsey N. Cohen – Linsey focuses her practice in the area of commercial real estate, where she advises developers, owners, property managers, and investors on a wide range of matters, including leasing, financing, acquisitions, sales, and workouts. Linsey has extensive leasing experience, which includes large retail properties. Her transaction experience includes multi-property, multi-state acquisitions, and dispositions. Linsey also represents owners of distressed properties, including asset negotiations on behalf of shopping center owners and homebuilders. Linsey can be reached at lcohen@gouldratner.com.

For more than 70 years, Gould & Ratner LLP has provided comprehensive legal counsel and business advice to sophisticated entrepreneurs, family businesses and middle market companies operating in a range of industries, including manufacturing and distribution, technology and telecommunications, financial services, real estate, construction, food & beverage, gaming and emerging new industries, to name a few. Gould & Ratner LLP acts as General Counsel for domestic and international companies with annual sales in excess of \$1 billion and has structured sophisticated and complex domestic and foreign transactions as well as tried and settled thousands of lawsuits and workouts.