

## Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

### Letter From The President Of The Georgia Chapter Of The Association Of Corporate Counsel



**To The Readers Of *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*:**

In keeping with New Year's spirit, our board made a resolution. (No, it's not losing weight – how could we pull that off while eating at Maggiano's every month?!) We resolved to advance critical elements of our following mission statement:

***The ACC Georgia Chapter's mission is to add value to a diverse community of in-house counsel through educational programs, public service, and professional relationships.***

**Adding value to a diverse community:** We will continue our successful and meaningful outreach efforts and explore additional avenues to add value and support the needs of the Atlanta legal community and our diverse membership.

One such initiative is the sponsorship of a second annual ACC Minority Intern. Through the recently adopted sponsorship program, we hope to partner with outside counsel and other professionals in raising the funds to sponsor one or more minority law students to serve as ACC Georgia interns during the summer of 2006. This goal will build upon our very successful experience with Shawntel Hebert, ACC Georgia's first-ever law student intern, whose sponsorship was made possible through a Diversity Dollars Grant through Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

**Providing quality educational programs:** Our VP of Sponsorship, George Sewell, together with Program Chair, Lori Shapiro, have already met with the Programs Committee to sketch out program topics and potential presenters for 2006.

The year kicked off with a program co-sponsored by Alston & Bird, LLP and McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc., called Weathering the Perfect Storm: Securing the Necessary Insurance Coverage and Obtaining Other Protections to Survive Hurricane Wilma or WorldCom. The panelists shared legal and practical advice about business interruption coverage: who needs it and why; natural disasters and the risk of terrorism; shareholder class action litigation; directors and officers insurance; and contract issues (structuring disaster-related clauses in business contracts, and indemnification provisions in corporate by-laws and other agreements).

Visit our calendar of upcoming events at <http://www.acca.com/chapters/georgia.php> for information about how you can sign up for our chapter's practical, high-quality programs which serve in-house counsel's practice needs.

**Public service:** We hope to continue our successful partnership with Emory Law School in co-sponsoring an EPIC intern, whose primary focus is public policy law. Similarly, chapter VP Betsy Griswold will explore opportunities such as ACC's National Day of Service, in which chapters across the country join together to provide pro bono legal services and/or public service benefiting their particular communities.

**Building and maintaining professional relationships:** We are exploring wide varieties of sponsorship partners, program presenters and other opportunities to develop and foster professional relationships between ACC Georgia members and the community in which we practice. In addition, our hope is to strengthen ties with ACC National by supporting national committees and participation in programs such as the ACC National Annual Meeting and writing for publications such as the ACC *DOCKET*. Information concerning these and other resources offered through ACC National are available at the ACC National website, <http://www.acca.com/homepage.php>.

As we know all too well, most New Year's resolutions are abandoned within the first two weeks. With your help, however, the Board's resolutions will hold fast throughout 2006.

How can you help? Most important, please speak up: LOUDLY and OFTEN. Please contact any of the 2006 Board members with your program interests, potential sponsorships, and community service goals. Their names and contact information are available at our chapter's web pages at <http://www.acca.com/chapters/georgia.php>.

Also, continue to actively participate in ACC Georgia's monthly luncheon programs. We've traditionally dedicated the second Tuesday of every month to a luncheon meeting at Maggiano's in Buckhead. One of the many outstanding features of our chapter is the fact that we consistently have higher attendance at our luncheon programs than many chapters with a larger membership roster.

Third, get actively involved with our committees. New interests groups, such as the Career Enhancement Committee and Young Lawyers' Council, would welcome additional members and will readily put your talents to work.

With your help, the New Year's resolution adopted by our Board will build a foundation for our chapter's continued success in 2006 and beyond.

Happy New Year!  
Teresa Kennedy

## Partners Notes

### Cozen O'Connor Rated Among Best Places To Work In PA

Cozen O'Connor was recently recognized as one of the Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania for the fourth consecutive year. The firm placed 11th out of 50 in the large employer category, which included only organizations with 250 or more employees. Cozen O'Connor was one of five Philadelphia companies named and the only law firm named to the list.

"It is always an honor to make the list," said Patrick J. O'Connor, president and CEO of Cozen O'Connor. "It is meaningful because it signifies that our employees believe this is a great place to work."

The Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania program was designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment throughout the state. The program is a public/private partnership of the Central Penn Business Journal, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Community and

Economic Development, Team Pennsylvania Foundation and Best Companies Group.

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Neal D. Colton, co-chair of Cozen O'Connor's bankruptcy, insolvency and restructuring practice group, will serve as a visiting professor of law for Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law's 2006 spring semester study abroad program at its Tokyo, Japan campus. He will teach two accelerated eight-week courses: Corporate Reorganization in U.S. Bankruptcy, and International Commercial Arbitration.

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Cozen O'Connor member Francine L. Semaya recently served as a guest lecturer at Brooklyn Law School. Ms. Semaya addressed the insurance law class on reinsurance 101 and insurance insolvency. Located in Cozen O'Connor's New York Downtown office, Ms. Semaya is chair of the insurance corporate and regulatory practice group.

### Pennsylvania Insurance Department Counsel Rejoins Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young

The chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department rejoined Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP as a partner in the Philadelphia office last month.

Steven B. Davis, who has headed the Insurance Department's Office of Chief Counsel since 2003, will co-chair the firm's nationally recognized insurance practice group with current chair Craig R. Blackman. Davis was an associate with Stradley Ronon from 1999 until 2001.

As chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Davis was responsible for providing counsel to the Insurance Commissioner, Governor's Office and all Department program areas on commonwealth insurance matters.

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Nine Stradley Ronon attorneys were recently named 2005 Pennsylvania Rising Stars by *Philadelphia Magazine* and *Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Magazine*, an annual listing of the top lawyers in Pennsylvania.

Christopher Connell, Valentino DiGiorgio III, Thomas Dymek, William Mahoney, Margaret Manolakis, Kevin Masucci, Michael O'Mara, Russell Ressler and Christopher Scarpa were selected by their peers statewide and represent the top 2.5 percent of up-and-coming attorneys in Pennsylvania.

The list of Pennsylvania Rising Stars, representing more than 60 practice areas, is published annually in the December issues of *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers – Rising Stars Edition* and *Philadelphia Magazine*.

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Stradley Ronon has admitted Mark J. Dorval and Jeffrey D. Grossman to the firm's partnership.

As a member of the business group, Mr. Dorval advises a broad range of clients on issues related to bankruptcy, creditors' rights and commercial practices. His experience includes litigation in federal and state courts involving various bankruptcy and loan workouts issues, negotiation of settlements and loan restructuring.

As a member of the litigation department, Mr. Grossman's clients include financial institutions, insurers, product manufacturers, other business enterprises of all sizes, charitable entities, a variety of professionals and other individuals.

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Philadelphia Bar Association (PBA) Chancellor Alan M. Feldman recently appointed Stradley Ronon partners Lee A. Rosengard and Jeffrey A. Lutsky as chairs of PBA committees. Rosengard was appointed to chair the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. Mr. Lutsky was appointed to co-chair the Large Firm Management Committee. Mr. Lutsky was also selected to serve on a task force that will work to develop and implement a section on law practice management. Mr. Rosengard will serve a twelve-month term as chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, which addresses current issues of mediation, arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution processes. He will be responsible for coordinating committee programs, among other duties. Mr. Lutsky will also serve a 12-month term as co-chair of the Large Firm Management Committee, which serves as a resource for its members – managing partners at the larger Philadelphia law firms.