

## Partners Notes

### Former Appellate Presiding Judge Joins Holland & Knight In NYC

Holland & Knight has announced that Justice Joseph P. Sullivan has become of counsel to the firm's New York office. A former presiding judge of the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, in New York City, he stepped down as an associate judge from the Court on December 31.



**Joseph P. Sullivan**

Justice Sullivan served as a judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York (1969-1972); justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, First Judicial Department (1973-1977); associate justice of the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department (1978-2000); presiding justice of the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department (2000-2001), and most recently as an associate justice of the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department (2002-2007).

In addition, Justice Sullivan has received a number of honors, including being nominated 10 times by the Commission on Judicial Nomination for appointment to the Court of Appeals, including twice for the office of Chief Judge.

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Holland & Knight has announced that a group of construction attorneys have joined the firm's New York office. Frederick (Rick) Rohn, Harry Sacks, Henry Rosenzweig and Deborah Roth were previously with Sacks Montgomery, P.C. in New York.

Mr. Rohn, who joins the firm as a partner, has 25 years of experience in the

construction law field representing construction project owners, construction managers and contractors. Mr. Sacks, who joins the firm as of counsel, has represented clients in major cases involving all types of construction projects as well as real estate and product liability disputes. Mr. Rosenzweig and Ms. Roth join the firm as associates.

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Holland & Knight has announced that Joel F. Zipp has joined the firm's Washington, DC office as a senior counsel in the International and Cross Borders Practice Group. Mr. Zipp focuses his practice on energy transactions, energy markets and regulation, energy project development, and the acquisition of energy assets and capacity, primarily pipelines and LNG facilities.

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Holland & Knight has announced that prominent immigration and corporate lawyer Brian Garcia has joined the firm's Miami office as a partner in the International & Cross Border Transactions Practice Group.

Mr. Garcia assists U.S. and multinational companies, hospitals and universities in obtaining employment-related visas and permanent residence; acts as immigration counsel for mergers, acquisitions and reorganizations for the preservation of visas and permanent residence applications; and advises clients on employment verification and anti-discrimination procedures and enforcement actions. He also has an active corporate and mergers and acquisitions practice focusing on cross border transactions.

Mr. Garcia is a frequent speaker on business immigration and corporate topics.

### Cozen O'Connor Receives Recognition For Involvement in Landmark Case

Cozen O'Connor has been honored with a 2008 Pro Bono Award from *The National Law Journal* (NLJ).

Each year, the NLJ recognizes the lawyers and law firms that have worked to ensure that legal rights are not contingent on an individual's ability to pay for an attorney. Cozen O'Connor was recognized for the firm's work as lead private counsel in the Hazleton, PA, immigration case that captured national attention last year.

The landmark case, *Lozano et. al v. City of Hazleton*, was brought on behalf of Hazleton residents, landlords and business owners. The Cozen O'Connor team worked in conjunction with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the ACLU, the Community Justice Project and other local lawyers in this highly publicized case attacking the constitutionality of Hazleton's Illegal Immigration Relief Act and related anti-immigration ordinances.

The challenged ordinances were first enacted in July 2006, after the mayor of Hazleton began blaming many of the city's ills, including crime, economic

burdens and social dilemmas, on undocumented immigrants. The ordinances were the first local laws in the country to impose fines on landlords who rent to undocumented immigrants and to deny or revoke business permits for companies that employ them. The ordinances failed to provide immigrants any meaningful opportunity to challenge their eviction or loss of employment based on the city's action.

The plaintiffs charged that the ordinances were in conflict with federal immigration law and policy, failed to provide procedural protections, and also conflicted with state laws. Following a two-week trial in March 2007, Judge James M. Munley of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania issued a 206-page opinion permanently enjoining the enforcement of the Hazleton Illegal Immigration Relief Act. The decision is now on appeal.

The Cozen O'Connor team included Thomas G. Wilkinson, Thomas B. Fidler, Linda S. Kaiser Conley, Elena Park, Ilan Rosenberg and Doreen Y. Trujillo.

### McKool Smith Opening NYC Office

The Texas-based law firm of McKool Smith, P.C., has announced the opening of a new office in New York, and the addition of veteran intellectual property trial attorney Robert A. Cote to lead the office.



**Robert A. Cote**

The New York office is another step in the firm's expansion outside of Texas. In September 2007, the firm established an office in Washington, DC, home to the International Trade Commission. At the time, McKool Smith added DC-based ITC veterans Rodney Sweetland and Mike McManus to oversee the firm's growing Section 337 patent litigation practice. In New York, McKool Smith will continue the firm's focus on commercial and intellectual property litigation.

Mr. Cote moves to McKool Smith from Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe's New York office, where he was an IP lit-

igation partner. He has represented clients in intellectual property matters in courts across the country. Mr. Cote is a frequent lecturer and noted authority on patent litigation. He also serves as host of the New IP Economy conference series. Like many other attorneys at McKool Smith, Mr. Cote holds a degree in electrical engineering.

McKool Smith has more than 90 attorneys handling commercial and intellectual property litigation for national and international clients, including Fortune 500 companies, universities, start-ups, and individuals. The firm is recognized as one of the premier litigation and trial firms in the United States, having earned significant courtroom victories for clients such as Electronic Data Systems, BearingPoint, Ericsson, Cisco Systems, Medtronic Inc. and National Instruments.

McKool Smith's new office is located at 399 Park Ave., Suite 3200, New York, NY 10022. The office can be reached at (212) 402-9400 or toll free at (888) 978-0212.

### Gibbons Names Luis Diaz As Firm's Chief Diversity Officer

Gibbons P.C. has appointed Luis J. Diaz to the role of chief diversity officer. While Gibbons has been honored for its commitment to diversity and inclusion by various publications including *Multi-Cultural Law* and *Working Mother*, the firm is creating this new role to enhance its existing diversity program and to help make a meaningful and lasting impact on the problem of diversity in the legal industry.

Mr. Diaz serves as the president & CEO of the United States Hispanic Advocacy Association (USHAA), where he plays an active role in working with major corporations and institutions of higher learning to advocate for and develop innovative strategies for diversity and inclusion. As chief diversity officer at Gibbons, he will enhance the

firm's ability to provide the most appropriate and effective solutions to the issues that arise in the operation of its clients' businesses.

In his new role, Mr. Diaz will manage all aspects of Gibbons' Diversity Initiative, including the implementation and execution of a highly innovative diversity strategy that will leverage all of the firm's existing resources while enhancing the ability of its clients to meet their objectives in this area. Mr. Diaz will lead efforts to identify, enhance and implement best practices in all areas of diversity.

Mr. Diaz is a director in the Gibbons Intellectual Property Department, and will also practice in the area of government relations. He is also a 2006 graduate of Leadership New Jersey.

### Norris McLaughlin Names Two Partners

Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. has announced that Jeremy I. Silberman and Padraig P. Flanagan have been named members of the firm.

Mr. Silberman practices in the firm's Litigation Group, representing clients in a wide range of matters, including franchise and distributorship terminations, construction claims, and equipment lease claims.

Mr. Silberman recently assisted in obtaining a \$5 million judgment on behalf of an industrial equipment dealer fighting the loss of its exclusive sales territory and termination of its franchise. He has also worked with many food industry franchisees, including Domino's Pizza, Maggie Moo's, and IHOP franchisees.

Mr. Flanagan also practices in the firm's Litigation Group with an emphasis on intellectual property and labor and employment matters. He has repre-

sented management in opposing union organizing activities and defended management against charges of unfair labor practices before the National Labor Relations Board. He has also represented management in defending against former employees' claims of age discrimination, national origin and religious discrimination, wrongful termination and retaliation. In addition, Mr. Flanagan has represented employers seeking to enforce employment and non-compete agreements.

Mr. Flanagan has litigated both patent and copyright infringement disputes involving consumer products, technological services and medical equipment devices, including license agreement disputes. He has also litigated disputes involving insurance, construction, professional liability, partnership dissolution, franchise, estate and trust, and bankruptcy matters.