

Partners Notes



(left to right) Charlie Gasparino, CNBC; Dom Esposito, J.H. Cohn; Robert DeMeola, J.H. Cohn; Nancy Fox, Fox Coaching Associates, Hubstreet.com; R. Max Crane, Sills Cummis & Gross; Phil Whitman, Whitman Business Advisors, and Allan Siposs, FMV Capital Markets.

Sills Cummis Partner R. Max Crane Participant In Managing Partners Roundtable

Managing Partner, R. Max Crane, served on Fox Coaching Associates and Metrosearch Network's Managing Partners Roundtable titled "The Art of the Merge: What works and what doesn't" in June, at The Princeton Club in New York City. Charles Gasparino, CNBC on-air commentator, moderated the discussion. Other panelists included Dom Esposito, chief operating officer, J.H. Cohn; Robert DeMeola, managing partner – New York J.H. Cohn and Allan Siposs, managing director, FMV Capital Markets, Investment Banking Division. Topics included how a law firm develops an internal consensus relating to the benefits of a merger, whether or not there is an optimal size for a law firm and what can be done if a merger does not appear to be working once it has gone into effect.

R. Max Crane focuses his practice on corporate and securities law.

Sills Cummis & Gross P.C. is focused on promoting diversity and giving back to the community. On July 17,

2009, the firm hosted a field trip at its Newark office for students of the NJ Law and Education Empowerment Project (NJ LEEP) Summer Law Institute. NJ LEEP helps urban youth from underserved neighborhoods in northern NJ. The Summer Law Institute is a five week criminal law course for rising ninth graders, taught by law students from Seton Hall University School of Law and other law schools. During their field trip the students met with Sills attorneys from different practice areas, who described the nature of their work to them. Students prepared a deliverable document addressing their favorite practice areas, why they want to work in that area, and skills needed to excel in that field.

David W. Kiefer, member of the firms' Litigation and Construction Law Practice Groups, is a 2009 *NJBIZ* "Forty Under 40" award recipient and will be honored at an awards reception on September 10, 2009, at The Palace at Somerset Park.

Martindale-Hubbell® Connected Global Network Reaches 10,000-Lawyer Milestone

LexisNexis has announced that membership in Martindale-Hubbell® Connected has surpassed 10,000 lawyers. Launched on March 31, 2009 with 3,000 beta members, Martindale-Hubbell Connected is the premier global online network for corporate counsel and other legal professionals and is the latest innovation from martindale.com®. The network has since grown to more than 10,000 members spanning more than 110 countries, making Martindale-Hubbell Connected the world's largest, authenticated, online network designed exclusively for the legal profession.

To celebrate this milestone, LexisNexis will donate \$10,000 to selected charities and nonprofit organizations chosen by Martindale-Hubbell Connected Alliance Partners. All Martin-

dale-Hubbell Connected members will have the opportunity to vote via online poll as to where they'd like to see the funds donated, subject to the charity donation rules posted online. Voting closes on August 14. The winning organizations will receive a share of the \$10,000 donation in proportion to the number of votes they receive.

The Alliance Partner Program for Martindale-Hubbell Connected offers legal associations and other select nonprofit legal organizations secure and dedicated network communities – enabling a quick and easy method for these organizations to greatly expand their members' networking and collaboration capabilities while also integrating their group within the larger Martindale-Hubbell community.

Cozen O'Connor Launches Capital Markets Group

Cozen O'Connor has announced the launch of a capital markets group to counsel issuers, underwriters, investors and other market participants in connection with the issuance of fixed income and equity securities, including high yield debt, investment grade securities, preferred equity, leveraged and hybrid capital, and equity-linked notes programs.

The group's multidisciplinary team has significant transactional and litigation experience in securities offerings and regulation, insurance-linked securities (ILS), public and project finance, tax, derivatives and bankruptcy, among other areas.

The firm represents clients in a full range of financing options, from debt and equity issues to derivatives, securitization and structured finance transactions, including initial public offerings on domestic and overseas stock exchanges, follow-on offerings, private

investment in public equities (PIPES), spinoffs, reverse mergers and special purpose acquisition companies (SPACS).

"The formation of this group is a natural extension of the substantial work we are already doing domestically and internationally to help the capital markets community navigate changing global market conditions, and maximize and develop emerging opportunities," says Michael Heller, chair of Cozen O'Connor's business law department. "It also marks the continued expansion of our business law services to further provide sophisticated solutions to companies worldwide."

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) recently elected Ann Thornton Field as chair of its Board of Directors, at the Council's Annual Meeting.

Ms. Field serves as chair of the general litigation department at the firm.

Policy Issues Alert

Immigration And Customs Enforcement Issues Notices Of Inspection To More Than 650 Businesses

Alice B. Stock

LOWENSTEIN SANDLER PC

On July 1, 2009, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, announced that it was issuing notices of inspection of I-9 forms to more than 650 businesses throughout the United States. ICE had previously issued only 503 notices of inspection to employers for all of fiscal 2008.

The issuance of these inspection notices on July 1 is part of ICE's new enforcement strategy that focuses on audits and investigations of employers and criminal prosecutions of businesses hiring undocumented workers. In con-

trast to the Bush administration, which had been criticized for raiding workplaces and arresting workers, but not going after employers, the Obama administration is concentrating its enforcement efforts on employers who hire illegal workers.

Employers should conduct internal audits of their I-9 forms to ensure compliance with the law.

Lowenstein Sandler assists employers in undertaking internal I-9 audits and other actions to prevent or minimize possible liability. Lowenstein Sandler also represents and assists employers facing ICE I-9 audits and workplace raids.

Please contact the author at astock@lowenstein.com with any questions about this issue.

Chambers USA 2009 Ranks Goodwin Procter In 37 Practice Areas

Goodwin Procter has announced that the legal directory *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business* has recognized the firm for excellence in numerous practice area categories in its 2009 edition. Ninety-nine of the firm's attorneys have been named as leading lawyers. Goodwin Procter's practice groups garnered a top-tier ranking in 14 categories and were ranked in 37 categories overall. Since its inception seven years ago, *Chambers USA* has consistently named Goodwin Procter and its attorneys as among the best in the legal industry.

Goodwin Procter's recognition includes both national and state categories, and spans across the firm's practice areas. For the third consecutive year, Gilbert G. Menna achieved the coveted "Star Performer" ranking in REITs, a designation that is the "standard by which others are judged and is reserved for those individuals whose

profile is far ahead of the pack."

In addition, Robert S. Basseches was honored as a "Senior Statesman" in Transportation – Shipping, Regulatory (outside New York) for being a "sage of his particular legal market with immense prestige."

At the national level, Goodwin Procter was honored in Investment Funds, including the sub-categories of Hedge Funds, Private Equity: Buyouts, Private Equity – Fund Formation, Registered Funds, REITs and Venture Capital. The firm was also recognized nationally for its Climate Change, Financial Services Regulation, Life Sciences, Privacy & Data Security, and Transportation practices. On the state level, Goodwin Procter was selected for excellence in categories such as California Venture Capital, Massachusetts Intellectual Property, New York Corporate/M&A, and Washington, D.C. Environment, among others.