

Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

IBM, Wyeth, Dechert, Citi's Charkes And Pratt & Whitney's Gutermann Honored

The Pro Bono Partnership has named IBM Corporation; Wyeth; Dechert LLP; Evan Charkes, Managing Director and Deputy General Counsel of Citigroup Global Wealth Management; and Peter Gutermann, Vice President & General Counsel of Pratt & Whitney, as its Outstanding Volunteers of 2008.

"These attorneys are exemplars of what is best in our profession," said Richard Hobish, Executive Director of the Partnership. "They have dedicated hundreds of hours to the business legal needs of nonprofit organizations that would otherwise not have access to professional advice. These agencies serve the disadvantaged in communities throughout the region."

IBM Corporation has been an active supporter of the Partnership since 1997. Under the leadership of Robert C. Weber, Senior V.P., Legal and Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel, and Michelle Browdy, V.P. and Assistant General Counsel, both of whom joined the Partnership's Board in 2007, IBM has substantially expanded its pro bono participation with the Partnership, actively encouraging its lawyers to volunteer.

"IBM has recognized the importance of community service," said Weber, "and is looking for even more opportunities to work with the Partnership in 2009. This project has been substantially Michelle Browdy's doing, and I am delighted that her leadership has produced such positive results."

Joanna Straub, Executive Director of The Volunteer Center of United Way, is grateful to IBM for providing a great attorney, Stephen Strunck. "We work with volunteers all the time and Stephen is one of the best I have had the pleasure of working with," she said. "Over a two-year period, he helped us consider all the options in a sensitive situation involving a copyright issue and finally brought the matter to a successful resolution."

Wyeth's level of volunteer involvement has been especially notable given that 2008 was the law department's first year of participation with the Partnership. "Clearly, Wyeth has shared our dedication to increasing pro bono representation to nonprofit organizations," said Nancy Eberhardt, Director of the Partnership's New Jersey Program.

Virgil Simons, Founder & President of The Prostate Net, agreed. "I cannot begin to place a value on the work done by Wyeth attorney Michele Farber in connection with our trademark filings. Her diligent research and persistent efforts in fighting through impediments have effectively positioned us as a stronger, more credible organization."

Lawrence V. Stein, Wyeth's Senior Vice President and General Counsel, said, "Our volunteer attorneys and staff are demonstrating Wyeth's values by helping to serve a vast unmet need for civil legal services." Bret I. Parker, Vice President, Chief Trademark & Copyright Counsel and Assistant General Counsel concurred, "The work we do with the Partnership has allowed us to expand Wyeth's pro bono program to the handling of non-litigation legal mat-

ters and allowed us to help nonprofit organizations. With our help, they can focus on doing what they do best while leaving the lawyering to us."

Dechert has been one of the law firms most programmatically involved with the Partnership for years, according to Hobish. "Partnership projects enable our many transactional attorneys to actually use their skills when delivering pro bono services, and we really appreciate the fact that Pro Bono Partnership is able to make it so easy for us to make those community connections," said Suzanne Turner, Partner for Pro Bono.

One connection the Partnership made for Dechert is with the JCC (Jewish Community Center) MetroWest. "I have consistently been impressed with the services provided by Dechert," commented Idan Levin, Chief Administrative Officer. "Melissa Ostrower recently provided an invaluable professional review of contracts for our outsourced providers, and took the time to assist us in understanding the contract with our new security provider. We look forward to working with Dechert in the future."

"Evan Charkes has been an exemplary volunteer and of immeasurable help to the Partnership's clients," said Hobish. "Pro Bono Partnership provided me with the opportunity to give something back to the community and help organizations that otherwise would have difficulty in obtaining legal services," said Charkes. "I was able to provide intellectual property and contract advice to an organization partnering with a food bank to purchase groceries for needy families, corporate governance services to a well-established technical assistance provider, and advice to a program to bring authors into schools and to a local arts organization. The terrific support provided by Pro Bono Partnership made all of this possible, and I cannot thank the staff enough."

"Evan helped us to update our bylaws and ethics policy, and amend our not-for-profit certification, as well as our name, to bring them into accord with the changes that have taken place in our organization since 1963," said Carol Hayward, Director of Development of RiverArts, who reported that Charkes has now joined the Board of Directors, where he has helped launch a prestigious advisory board and increased diversity in programming.

Peter Gutermann, Chair of the Non-profit Pro Bono Initiative's Advisory Board (NPBI) since 2003, helped promote opportunities for meaningful pro bono work long before he helped spearhead NPBI's merger with the Partnership in 2008. "Without Peter's leadership and dedication, our merger with NPBI could not have happened," said Hobish. "Under his guidance, the transition was nearly seamless." Gutermann continues to chair the Advisory Board, has joined the Partnership's Board, and helped recruit another United Technologies' leadership team member, Clinton Gardiner, Vice President & General Counsel of Hamilton Sundstrand, to the Board, too.

In 2003, Hartford area non-profits

had very few options for assistance with legal problems. Gutermann seized the opportunity to help establish a pro bono program with Hartford companies. "The Hartford corporate legal community really stepped up and committed both legal talent and money to create the NPBI," said Gutermann who feels the successful merger with the Partnership has brought important new resources to the Greater Hartford area. "We are allowing non-profits to use their scarce funds for the people they assist and

helping these non-profits thrive."

The Pro Bono Partnership is a non-profit organization supported by annual gifts and grants. It provides pro bono legal assistance to nonprofit organizations in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. For more information, visit www.probonopartnership.org.

For more information, please contact Lisa Rosenbloom, Director of Development at lrosenbloom@probonopartner.org or 914 328-0674, or visit www.probonopartnership.org

Partners Notes

Proskauer Rose Solidifies Asian Presence And Growth In Key Practices

Proskauer Rose LLP announced the continuation of its Asian expansion with the firm's move into office space in the heart of Hong Kong's central business district.

The firm had announced its move into China in September with the addition of partners Ying Li, one of Asia's preeminent corporate lawyers, who formerly led Heller Ehrman's China Business Practice, and Joseph Cha, who led Heller's Beijing office and its Asian Private Equity and Fund Formation Practice. In addition, Yuval Tal, a New York-based corporate partner who is also a member of Proskauer's Lodging and Gaming Practice Group moved to Hong Kong to open the new office. Together, this group has led the firm's Asian expansion through its corporate and

transactional practices.

The address for the new office is: 36/F, Edinburgh Tower, The Landmark, Suites 3605-3607, 15 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong.

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Joseph Leccese and Steven Bauer, partners at Proskauer Rose, have been elected to three-year terms on the Executive Committee (EC), the firm's leadership body. They will join current EC members Allen Fagin, chairman of the firm, Bruce Fader, Michael Feldman, Betsy Plevan and Stephen Ratner, and replace outgoing members Bruce Lieb and Albert Gortz.

Mr. Leccese is co-head of the firm's Sports Law Practice Group. Mr. Bauer is one of the leaders of the firm's Patent Litigation Practice Group.

Lowenstein Sandler Assists Parties Facing Exposure To Madoff Losses

Since the announcement of the Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities scandal, Lowenstein Sandler has counseled Madoff investors on a number of emerging issues and is monitoring developments closely. Drawing on the extensive experience of attorneys from a variety of disciplines, including litigation, investment management, securities, creditors' rights, estate planning, tax and white collar defense, the firm is providing assistance and strategic advice to individual and institutional investors, funds, and charitable entities as they consider their own potential losses and possible exposure.

The partners in charge are Robert D. Chesler, Insurance Coverage; Michael B. Himmel, chair of the Litigation Department, White Collar Criminal Defense; and Robert G. Minion, Investment Management.

Significant decisions need to be made – some quickly – and those affected will need to consult with professionals regarding some or all of the following matters:

- Individual direct investors who received redemptions from the Madoff firm may be subject to "clawback" claims by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) trustee to recover some or all of those funds;
- Indirect investors who invested through feeder funds and who redeemed

may face "clawback" claims by the funds to recover some or all of those funds;

- Feeder funds and other institutional investors and their managers or executives may be the target of claims by partners or shareholders;

- Investment managers and advisers who recommended to clients that they invest in Madoff funds may be pursued by those investors;

- Charitable entities and their boards may face claims for losses by constituents;

- Off-shore funds may be subject to scrutiny about U.S. taxes;

- Significant investors and funds may be subpoenaed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice, SIPC or other federal and state regulators seeking information about the apparent fraud or possible new claims;

- Investors with losses may be entitled to claim deductions on federal and state income tax returns or to amend prior years' returns, and individual investors may need to reconsider estate planning, including the tax treatment of past gifts;

- Investors may have claims to recover some portion of losses from insurance policies;

- Investors may have an opportunity to pursue SIPC claims.