

Chapman and Cutler LLP

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Chapman and Cutler Continues Growth with Associate Hires in all Offices: Chicago, New York, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco

Chapman and Cutler welcomes four lateral and eleven first-year associates to the Firm.

CHICAGO (September 12, 2011) – Chapman and Cutler is expanding capabilities across several practice groups—banking, corporate finance and securities, general litigation, public finance, and special litigation—with the addition of four lateral associates and eleven first-year associates.

Ali Yenal joined Chapman’s Banking department in the New York office on August 29. He serves as counsel to underwriters in TALF-eligible securitizations; to purchasers, borrowers, and lenders in acquisition and leveraged finance transactions; and to purchasers, sellers, and conduits in connection with structured financings. Mr. Yenal joins Chapman from Nixon Peabody LLP. He graduated from Tulane Law School in 2000.

Paul Bozzello joined the Firm’s Corporate Finance department in the San Francisco office on September 6. He comes to Chapman and Cutler from Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. Mr. Bozzello focuses his practice on public and private issuances of asset-backed, mortgage-backed, and other structured financial debt instruments. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 2009.

Eric Wood joined Chapman’s Banking department in the Chicago office on September 6. He comes to the Firm from Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. Mr. Wood focuses his practice on borrower-side bank lending transactions, including the negotiation of asset-backed revolving credit facilities and accompanying documents for retailers and private equity funds. He graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 2008.

Molly Skjei Bulfin joined the Firm’s Banking department in the Chicago office on September 12. She previously practiced in Davenport, Iowa, and before that, at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP. She concentrates her practice on multi-state real estate portfolio financing, construction lending, venture formation, loan securitizations, multi-lender facilities, mergers and acquisitions, and mortgage financing to tenant-in-common borrowers. She graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2006.

“The Firm is expanding across several strategic practice areas to keep up with the extraordinary growth of our clients, and we are very pleased to have such talented and accomplished laterals and bright first-years on board to support our clients’ needs,” said Tim Mohan, Chief Executive Partner at Chapman and Cutler LLP.

“Chapman and Cutler is a firm where attorneys want to practice their entire careers, and we are excited to welcome eleven first-year associates,” said Rose Gallagher, chair of the Firm’s Employment Committee. “We have spent the past several years building an apprentice-style training and mentorship program for junior associates that gives them the support they need to carve out a fulfilling career at Chapman.”

In alphabetical order, Chapman's new first-year associates, Class of 2011, are:

Emily N. Baehl
Northwestern University School of Law
Practice focus: corporate finance and securities
Office: Chicago

Ami S. Patel
University of Illinois College of Law
Practice focus: banking
Office: Chicago

Kristen J. Chmielewski
Northwestern University School of Law
Practice focus: special litigation
Office: Chicago

Brandon C. Pond
Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School
Practice focus: general litigation
Office: Salt Lake City

Stephanie B. DiSilvestro
The University of Michigan Law School
Practice focus: public finance
Office: Chicago

Mark A. Silverman
Chicago-Kent College of Law
Practice focus: general litigation
Office: Chicago

John M. Ekblad
University of Illinois College of Law
Practice focus: corporate finance and securities
Office: Chicago

Paul D. Whitehair
University of Illinois College of Law
Practice focus: public finance
Office: Chicago

David W. Hamilton
Harvard Law School
Practice focus: corporate finance and securities
Office: Chicago

Diana Zelikovich
The University of Michigan Law School
Practice focus: banking
Office: Chicago

Kevin M. O'Neill
Indiana University Maurer School of Law
Practice focus: banking
Office: Chicago

"We are very pleased to be able to expand our practice organically in response to client growth," said Erin Bartholomy, professional development partner at Chapman. "This kind of natural expansion will allow our new associates to get hands-on client experience right from the start." Stacey Kielbasa, director of professional development and attorney recruitment, added, "Chapman is investing in the future, investing in our own home-grown talent, and we have a lot to work with here."

These associate hires follow recent lateral partner additions: Matthew C. Boba, a Chicago Corporate and Securities practice group partner, who returned to Chapman after serving as general counsel to Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett, Inc. (which was acquired by Raymond James Financial, Inc. in 2011) and Robert M. Drillings, a New York Public Finance practice group partner, who joined the Firm from Akerman Senterfitt LLP.

About Chapman and Cutler

Chapman and Cutler LLP is a national law firm with a practice that is focused on financial services transactions and clients. Founded in 1913, the firm has more than 200 attorneys with offices in Chicago, New York, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco. For more information, please visit chapman.com.