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on Their Recognition as  
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CRAIN'S CUSTOM CONTENT

# MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY LAWYERS IN CHICAGO

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Most Influential Minority Lawyers in Chicago, a special custom content section from Crain's Custom Media.

The 45 women and men featured alphabetically in these pages represent an impressive cross-section of the Chicago-area legal community, many of whom have practiced with distinction for decades.

Every profile in this section is drawn from the nomination materials submitted, no lawyer paid to be featured, and the *Crain's Chicago Business* newsroom was not involved in creating this content.

Because this honor is bestowed only upon lawyers for whom nominations were submitted, this year's list is not comprehensive. We trust that as this Most Influential list becomes a new tradition in the Chicago legal community, the pool of potential honorees will continue to grow.

Meanwhile, enjoy reading about the achievements of what is a truly impressive first class, and please join us in congratulating them.

**CRAIN'S** CUSTOM MEDIA  
A DIVISION OF CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS





Brendan Hammer

**BergerSchatz**  
Matrimonial & Family Law Attorneys

## A Decision We All Applaud.

**Congratulations to Brendan Hammer**

Named one of Chicago's Most Influential Minority Lawyers 2017, Berger Schatz partner Brendan Hammer has been at the center of many recent family law cases involving high-net-worth individuals with complex estates—earning the praise of clients and judges alike. [bergerschatz.com](http://bergerschatz.com)

<div><div>LISA ACEVEDO</div><div>Shareholder Polsinelli</div></div> <div><div><b>Lisa Acevedo</b> chairs the Health Information Privacy and Security team at national law firm Polsinelli, which was recently named “Law Firm of the Year in Health Care” by <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>. Having first become involved in the field while working in-house at Baxter International Inc., Acevedo is now a recognized leader in providing strategic counsel on state and federal health privacy laws and regulations for a range of national and multinational clients. She also guides clients through the regulatory hurdles of data use and sharing for research, quality of care and other purposes. She guides clients in structuring complex strategic alliances related to health information exchanges, clinically integrated networks, and other innovative approaches to records management. Perhaps most critically, she counsels clients through data security incidents and breaches, regularly guiding them through resulting federal and state agency investigations to resolve issues and avoid fines or penalties. Acevedo has also served as the Chair of the Latina Lawyers Committee of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, where she organized annual networking events aimed at raising the visibility of Latinas within the legal profession.</div></div>	<div><div>IMRON T. ALY</div><div>Partner Schiff Hardin LLP</div></div> <div><div><b>Imron T. Aly</b>, co-leader of Schiff Hardin's Intellectual Property Group and co-chair of its Hatch-Waxman and Biosimilars patent litigation team, is known for both his significant IP litigation accomplishments and mentorship of fellow Indian-American and minority attorneys. Aly identified an unmet legal need in the India-based generic pharmaceutical market. As a result, he has been instrumental in growing Schiff's ANDA practice by 400 percent since 2014; his team now represents eight leading Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers. An active litigator who managed 11 trials in 12 months in 2016, Aly helps clients navigate the full range of Hatch-Waxman issues. One of his most recent trial successes secured a preliminary injunction in federal court that allowed client Fresenius Kabi to retain its market share for a patented thyroid treatment. As board member of the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms, Aly provides counsel to improve training and mentorship programs that support minority lawyers. He also formerly served as board member of the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, advocating for safe and accessible housing. This year, he was named an IP Rising Star by <i>Managing Intellectual Property</i> magazine.</div></div>	<div><div>ZULFIQAR BOKHARI</div><div>Partner Latham &amp; Watkins LLP</div></div> <div><div><b>Zulfiqar Bokhari</b>, over the course of his 20-plus year career, has become one of the most well-known lawyers in the syndicated loan markets. Many of the world's largest banks and financial institutions turn to Bokhari for advice on the structuring and syndication of senior credit facilities, including acquisition, recapitalization, bridge, working capital and other domestic, cross-border and multicurrency financings. He regularly represents lead banks across the credit spectrum (from unsecured investment grade to secured leveraged high yield), transaction size (from middle market to large cap jumbo investment grade) and product type (asset-based loans and cash flow loans). Recently, Bokhari represented a major U.S. bank as the lead financing source in \$2 billion bridge and permanent financings for Moody's Corporation to acquire Bureau van Dijk, a global provider of business intelligence and company information. Bokhari also recently represented two leading U.S. banks as the lead financing sources in a \$1.7 billion acquisition financing for ABM Industries to acquire GCA Services Group.</div></div>	<div><div>RICHARD BOYKIN</div><div>Partner Barnes &amp; Thornburg LLP</div></div> <div><div>Whether he's in the Barnes &amp; Thornburg offices or serving in his elected position on the Cook County Board of Commissioners, <b>Richard Boykin</b> is making a difference in the community. With Barnes &amp; Thornburg, Boykin advises clients on government relations and advocates on their behalf in Washington, D.C. His clients include the country's largest association of mail contractors, and the third-largest beer company in the U.S. Boykin founded the firm's annual Celebration of Diversity Dinner and Awards Reception. As an elected official, Boykin led the fight to repeal the sweetened beverage tax. He is a leading voice against gun violence and successfully introduced and passed an ammunition tax in 2016. Additionally, he passed legislation doubling the penalty for illegal assault weapon possession in Cook County. Boykin has received numerous awards, including the Martin Luther King Dream Classic Award, the National Association of Community Health Centers Service Award, the Westside Branch NAACP Humanitarian Award and the Barnes &amp; Thornburg Camille B. Conway Diversity Award. He serves on several boards, including the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, the Dr. Martin Luther King Dream Classic and the StreetWise board of directors.</div></div>	<div><div>RODERICK BRANCH</div><div>Partner; Co-chair, Chicago Corporate Department Latham &amp; Watkins LLP</div></div> <div><div>Mexico City native <b>Roderick Branch</b> was named to the <i>Crain's Chicago Business</i> 40 Under 40 list in 2015, and continues to be among the most influential cross-border capital markets lawyers. Most recently, Branch advised Vista Oil &amp; Gas, S.A.B. de C.V. (Vista) in its \$650 million global initial public offering, which closed in August. Vista's IPO introduced a new asset class to Latin America, as the region's first special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) to go public and the first oil and gas exploration and production-focused company to list on the Mexican Stock Exchange. Branch advised Infraestructura Energética Nova, S.A.B. de C.V. (IEnova), Mexico's largest private-sector energy company, on its \$1.6 billion follow-on equity offering, the largest equity offering in Latin America in 2016. Branch has also represented an impressive roster of Chicago-based clients on influential transactions, including major bond financings for Hyatt Hotels, Ventas, Illinois Tool Works and TransUnion. He also advised on the IPOs of Hyatt and TransUnion. He is a governing member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a board member of the Harvard Law Society of Illinois.</div></div>	<div><div>MATTHEW BREWER</div><div>Partner Bartlit Beck</div></div> <div><div><b>Matthew Brewer</b> graduated from Stanford University, Yale Law School and Harvard Business School, but his most impressive accomplishments have occurred in courtrooms and conference rooms on behalf of his clients. He focuses on complicated business disputes with strategic significance, including contract, intellectual property, accounting, securities and Chinese regulatory disputes. In the last 12-18 months, two of Brewer's high profile matters have gone to trial: representing MassMutual as plaintiff against Credit Suisse; and defending PriceWaterhouseCoopers against claims from the FDIC. He also represented a well-known financial institution in a confidential international regulatory dispute. Each of these matters involved hundreds of millions of dollars in dispute, and are shaping the landscape of liability in their respective industries. Brewer serves as commissioner of the Chicago Housing Authority, and chairs its Real Estate Committee. He sits on the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Planning Council. He is also founder and chairman of floChicago, a non-profit organization committed to identifying and developing Chicago's next generation of leaders.</div></div>	<div><div>STEVEN R. CADE</div><div>Senior Counsel Foley &amp; Lardner LLP</div></div> <div><div><b>Steven R. Cade</b> represents clients in a broad range of general corporate law and transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financings and securities matters. Cade is a member of the firm's transactions practice group. He represents buyers and sellers in public and private mergers, acquisitions and strategic alliances in a variety of industries. He also represents issuers and investment banks in securities offerings, including initial public offerings, private placements and non-public offerings under Rule 144A. He mentors diverse attorneys through the firm's Diversity Ambassador Program. He is also an active member of the firm's Diversity &amp; Inclusion Action Council, where he serves on the sponsorship program subcommittee. In this role, he has been instrumental in the implementation of the firm's first diversity and inclusion strategic plan. He recently represented Health Care Service Corporation in the sale of 100 percent of the stock of Preferred Financial Corporation and Colorado Bankers Life Insurance Company to Southland National Insurance Corporation. He also represented 640 Labs, a hardware/software company, in selling its business to Climate Corporation, a subsidiary of Monsanto.</div></div>	<div><div>PUNEET CHAM</div><div>Partner Latimer LeVay Fyock LLC</div></div> <div><div>As an estate and business succession planning attorney, <b>Puneet Cham</b> meets with families who seek to preserve their wealth, instill a sense of responsibility and hard work in their children and pass on family businesses to the next generation. Cham recognizes that estate planning is a unique intersection of a client's personal, financial and professional life. He represents small and medium sized businesses and their principals, executives and other professionals. In the last 18 months, he has successfully represented a successor trustee in defending a breach of fiduciary duty claim to ensure that the grantor's wishes were honored. He crafted an estate plan for owners of a multi-million-dollar company that has seen and continues to see significant growth over a relatively short period of time. He created a gifting and equalization plan for a parent to transfer multiple properties at discounted values to her children and then navigated a contentious sale of a multi-million-dollar commercial and residential unit. Currently, he acts as remote general counsel to a company in the hospitality industry with deep roots in the Chicagoland community</div></div>
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Franczek Radelet is an enthusiastic leader in diversity initiatives and proud to recognize the immeasurable influence of **Tejas Shah, Michael Hernandez, and Respicio Vazquez.**

Congratulations on being named Most Influential Minority Lawyers in Chicago. **You’ve earned it!**

**FRANCZEK RADELET**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

# Morgan Lewis

We congratulate our partner

# SANJAY MURTHY

who has been named a **MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY LAWYER** by Crain’s Custom Media.

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MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY LAWYERS IN CHICAGO

VISHAL K. CHHABRIA

Associate  
Lavelle Law



**Vishal K. Chhabria** helped the firm establish a comprehensive immigration law practice group. Being of South Asian origin, Chhabria can empathize with the barriers his clients face in understanding the language, culture or business practices they encounter. In addition to assisting with matters such as citizenship, the complex labyrinth of USCIS forms and processes, and visa requests, he is also an advocate for employment opportunities. In October, the Northern District, Eastern Division of United States Federal Court qualified him as an Immigration Expert. He has embraced innovative means of engaging the community by being a frequent contributor to the Chicago's Legal Latte podcast series, hosting Know Your Rights workshops at North Park University and Harper College, participating in a DACA Workshop at Roosevelt University, and producing numerous articles and videos on immigration topics. He has taken on leadership roles in the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the Chicago and Northwest Suburban Bar Associations. Because of his efforts, Lavelle Law was recognized as the "Best of the Best" Immigration Law Firm by the *Daily Herald* Readers' Choice Awards.

MICHAEL P. CHU

Partner  
McDermott Will & Emery



**Michael P. Chu** is co-chair of McDermott's Racial & Ethnic Diversity Committee, former president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), former president of the NAPABA Law Foundation, and was a board member of the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, the Filipino American Bar Association, the AABA Law Foundation, the Korean American Bar Association, and the Chinese American Bar Association. He is current board chair for both the Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago and the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms. Over the past few months, Chu has been honored for his lifetime of work in the Asian Pacific American Community and has been recognized by the Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago with their 2017 Trailblazer Award and the Chinese American Bar Association with the Laura C. Liu Lifetime Achievement Award. He maintains a robust intellectual property law practice, handling patent, trademark, trade secret and copyright matters before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and before the International Trade Commission. He also practices before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

LINDSEY DATES

Partner  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP



A native of the Morgan Park/Roseland communities on the South Side of Chicago, **Lindsey Dates** mentors minority male teenagers from those neighborhoods via the Mentor Teacher Brother Program. He organizes and chairs the annual Don Hubert Scholars Mock Trial Competition, which introduces 150 minority male teenagers to the legal profession via a one-day mock trial competition, motivational speakers, and a networking reception. He is also the newest (and youngest ever elected) Chair of the Chicago Committee, an organization that seeks to improve, create and sustain diversity at Chicago law firms and corporate legal departments. His commercial litigation experience includes complex breach of contract, class action, insurance coverage, product liability, business tort, intellectual property, antitrust, commercial real estate, and commercial bankruptcy litigation matters. He has developed a particular niche with respect to representing global companies (many of which are based in Asia) in cross-border high-stakes litigation matters in forums across the country.

PETER M. ELLIS

Partner & Chair of Complex Litigation Group  
Reed Smith LLP



**Peter Ellis** is the National Chair of Reed Smith's Complex Litigation Group (CLG), as well as a member of the firm's Global Executive Committee, where he chairs the Clients & Markets Committee (Strategy). As CLG chair, he is responsible for the firm's largest practice group worldwide. Ellis also maintains a busy, diverse practice: Recently, he successfully led a defense team in a \$3 billion royalty dispute of an Italian/German manufacturer and its Egyptian subsidiary related to sales over 15 years, complicated by parallel proceedings alleging similar claims in Egypt. In addition to high-stakes litigation, he also manages large litigation portfolios, including a multi-million-dollar litigation for a Japanese-based technology company that has led to industry-leading efficiencies resulting in receipt of the 2017 Association of Corporate Counsel Value Challenge Championship. He also counsels senior executives and boards regarding governance and risk. He serves on non-profit boards including Rush University Medical Center, the Harris Theatre and the Chicago Botanic Garden. A Leadership Greater Chicago fellow, he was recognized by Chicago United, which named him a 2017 Business Leader of Color.

MARGARITA ESCALANTE

Associate  
Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone



Licensed in Mexico and Illinois, **Margarita Escalante** assists clients in domestic and international corporate matters and commercial transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. She has successfully represented clients in all stages of mergers and acquisitions, including one of the largest acquisitions of an automotive company by a Chinese company in history (AVIC Automotive of China in the acquisition of Henniges Automotive from Littlejohn). She has successfully assisted clients in setting up operations in the U.S. and Mexico. She is experienced in specialized industries such as automotive and manufacturing. She also represents lenders and borrowers in domestic and international financings, including secured lending facilities, with a significant focus on Mexico and Latin America. She also serves as an Advisory Board Member of the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, both Great Lakes (Detroit) and Mid-America (Chicago) Chapters, a founding Board Member of the AEM (Mexican Association of Entrepreneurs and Professionals), and an active member of the ACG, among others.

ANNE FREDD

Managing Member  
Neal & Leroy, LLC



As a member of Neal & Leroy, LLC, the nation's oldest continuously operating African-American-owned law firm, **Anne Fredd** specializes in real estate, municipal law and public finance. During 2016, she was the lead attorney at her firm in serving as co-bond counsel in over \$2 billion in tax-exempt bonds issued for O'Hare International Airport. She has also represented public agencies in the development and implementation of MBE/WBE/DBE programs. Since 2015, she has served as president of Alpha Gamma Pi Sorority, which mentors and provides scholarship assistance for young women of color. She served on the task force for the establishment of the Cook County Elder Justice Center, which has served more than 9,000 elderly and indigent residents of Cook County since opening its doors in 2013. She is a former president (1982-1983) of the Cook County Bar Association (CCBA). This year, she was elected president of the Cook County Bar Association Foundation. She is a life member of the National Bar Association and received its Hall of Fame Award in August of 2015. Fredd is also a former member of the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association.

JEANNE M. GILLS

Partner and Vice Chair, IP Department  
Foley & Lardner LLP



**Jeanne M. Gills** serves as lead trial counsel in complex patent and other IP litigation and appeals, including PTAB proceedings, for diverse industries (such as pharmaceuticals, chemical/biotech technology, consumer products, wireless technologies, computer software, business methods and food/beverage). She also leads the IP side of M&A transactions and helps clients manage risks and opportunities in the global IP arena. She recently was lead trial and PTAB counsel for the nation's leading research hospital in a co-pending trade secret litigation and rare derivation proceeding. She also served as lead counsel drafting an agreement dividing the patent/technology assets for Kraft Foods' 2012 split (into Kraft and Mondelez); and was lead IP counsel on a 2017 \$1.2 billion transaction creating two JV entities (one in the U.S. and one in Switzerland) for a Fortune 200 manufacturer. She has been recognized among *The Best Lawyers in America* (Food & Beverage, 2015-2017; IP Litigation, 2017) and *Benchmark Litigation 2018 – Litigation Star*. In 2012, she co-founded the Chicago Black Partners Alliance (CBPA) to improve the promotion, retention, and success of black partners.

GRAHAM C. GRADY

Partner  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister



**Graham C. Grady** advises clients seeking government entitlements and in solving problems with units of local government. He represents real estate developers, property owners and commercial tenants in all classifications of real estate primarily in Chicago and Cook County. Grady also serves as legal counsel to one of the five annuity and benefit funds of the City of Chicago. His past government experience includes service as City of Chicago Commissioner of the Department of Buildings, Zoning Administrator and ex-officio member of the Chicago Plan Commission. He serves as a director of WTTW/WFMT, Chicago Public Library Foundation, Chicago Parks Foundation and Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. He is a member of the Art Institute of Chicago Architecture & Design Committee and the African-American Leadership Advisory Committee. At Taft, Grady is a member of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. He received the 2017 Earl Burrus Dickerson Award from the Chicago Bar Association and is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Illinois Super Lawyers*, *Martindale-Hubbell* and *Leading Lawyers Network*. He also has been listed in *Crain's Chicago Business' 40 Under 40*.

Polsinelli is proud to congratulate Lisa Acevedo and Jean Soh for being recognized as the Most Influential Minority Lawyers in Chicago.

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The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Polsinelli PC. Polsinelli LLP in California.

Congratulations to Graham Grady, partner at Taft and one of the Most Influential Minority Lawyers in Chicago.

Thank you for your tireless commitment to your clients and the community at large.

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MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY LAWYERS IN CHICAGO

SHILPI GUPTA

Partner  
Skadden Arps



**Shilpi Gupta** is an internationally recognized corporate lawyer, with a particular expertise in complex cross-border transactions. Some of the largest corporations in the world turn to Gupta to lead their high-profile multi-jurisdictional transactions. He recently led Ball Corporation in its \$8.5 billion acquisition of UK-based Rexam PLC. He has also handled a range of cross-border transactions and other corporate matters for long-time clients including Middleby Corporation, Visteon Corporation, IDEX Corporation and Huron Consulting Group. In 2017, he completed a high-profile transaction for American Capital, Ltd., leading them in their sale to Ares Capital Corporation, excluding American Capital Mortgage Management, LLC, for \$3.43 billion and in their sale of American Capital Mortgage Management to American Capital Agency Corp. for \$562 million. His deep expertise in cross-border transactions as well as various other corporate matters including shareholder activism and corporate governance, have positioned him as a go-to lawyer for the most complex and critical corporate transactions. He also has served on the board of the Lincoln Park Zoo, and serves on Skadden's Chicago diversity committee.

BRENDAN HAMMER

Partner  
Berger Schatz



**Brendan Hammer** guides high-profile and high-net-worth clients through the difficult divorce process with compassion and acumen. Only five years out of law school, he was selected for the *Law Bulletin's* 40 Illinois Under 40 Attorneys to Watch. Now, at 41, he is entrusted by his partners with the trials of some of the most significant and public family law cases in Illinois. His recent successes include serving as lead trial counsel in Chicago, DuPage County and Washington D.C., and managing all aspects of local and national media relations in a very public and difficult divorce, where he represented a notable political figure; and another recent case where he prevailed in representation of an NBA star regarding child support. Hammer is himself divorced. His former spouse and co-parent, Vanessa, is also Hispanic and an accomplished divorce lawyer. They knew that their personal and professional experiences could benefit others, especially those who have fewer resources than most of their clients. To fulfill that mission, they are creating a bilingual website and podcast called "Exes and Allies," as a divorce and parenting resource.

KAREN K. HARRIS

Partner  
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP



**Karen K. Harris** focuses her practice on transactional and regulatory matters on behalf of hospital systems, medical and dental practices, ambulatory surgical centers, managed care companies, as well as individual physicians, dentists and other healthcare professionals. Harris previously served as regional general counsel at Aetna U.S. Healthcare, Inc. and as a supervising attorney at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. She has been a member of both the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) and the Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys (IAHA) since 1994. She is former co-chair of the Chicago Bar Association/Young Lawyers Section's Health and Hospital Law Committee. She currently serves on Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr's Diversity and Women's Initiative committees and, as an associate at DLA Piper, she served as that firm's national director of diversity. She has served on the board of directors of the Chicago Black Women Lawyers Association and the Chicago Committee for Diversity in Large Law Firms, and is currently active in chairing events for the Chicago Black Partners Association

MICHAEL J. HERNANDEZ

Partner  
Franczek Radelet P.C.



**Michael J. Hernandez** represents a wide variety of clients, including: Illinois School District U-46, the second-largest in Illinois; several of the largest school district property tax appeal cooperatives; the ASPIRA Charter School Network; the Chicago City Council's Latino Caucus; and several major Midwest institutions of higher education. He has assisted clients in sensitive and highly publicized matters including: representing School District U-46 in a decade-long class-action litigation and trial; negotiating labor agreements for education clients and advising one suburban school district on a major labor strike; and advising higher education institutions and school districts on law enforcement investigations. He has served as a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and board member for the National Latino Education Institute. He was named a Business Leader of Color by Chicago United in 2013, received the El Humanitaro Award, chosen by Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, in 2009, and named to the Who's Who In Hispanic Chicago list by *Negocios Now* in 2016. He is a founding member of the Chicago Advisory Board of Teach for America, and has served as designated counsel for the National Hispanic Sales Network.

CHRISTOPHER L. HINES

Partner  
Fox Rothschild LLP



**Christopher L. Hines** is a patent and intellectual property attorney whose clients range from fledgling technology startups to a major research university, to one of the world's fastest-growing cloud computing companies. He counsels a cloud computing company that reported \$1.4 billion in annual revenue in 2017 on a full range of issues involving intellectual property assets. Hines advises the company on patent procurement, due diligence and freedom to operate issues, among others. He also played a role in one of the most important intellectual property cases in recent years, participating in the Covered Business Method Review process for check-imaging patents that were at the center of litigation filed by DataTreasury Corporation. Lawmakers have credited the voluminous litigation surrounding the patents with shaping the America Invests Act. A major research university also depends on Hines to safeguard and assess its intellectual property assets. He provides patent prosecution and technology transfer representation and counseling tailored to meeting the needs of a non-profit entity.

PATRICIA BROWN HOLMES

Partner  
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP



Eighteen months ago, **Patricia Brown Holmes** led a group of 20 other attorneys to start Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP, a law firm where every decision is based on the principal that clients come first, such as the absence of a billable-hours requirement and billing credit, a significant effort to provide clients with diverse teams, and encouraging innovative fee arrangements. She currently serves as administrative partner of RSHC. Recently, Holmes recruited a large group of attorneys to join RSHC, significantly expanding the diversity of the firm's attorneys and practice areas. About a year ago, she was appointed as special prosecutor to investigate Chicago police officers in the shooting incident which resulted in the death of Laquan McDonald. Holmes also counsels on compliance issues, litigates, and conducts internal investigations. She has served as a state court judge, state and local prosecutor, chair of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission and trustee of the University of Illinois. She is a founding member of Black Women Lawyers Association and the Just the Beginning Foundation.

KEITH E. HORTON

General Counsel and Ethics Officer  
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer



When **Keith E. Horton** became general counsel for the Illinois State Treasurer's Office in 2015, he charted a path to return millions of dollars to Illinois residents and lower fees for families saving for college. He has managed litigation with retailers and life insurance companies resulting in more than \$2 million for Illinoisans that can be claimed through the Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Program. Horton's team also helped successfully negotiate a new contract for Illinois' 529 College Savings Programs, leading to lower fees and better investment options. Prior to joining the State of Illinois, Horton worked in private practice, where he successfully defended a multi-million-dollar breach of contract lawsuit against a professional athlete, *White Chocolate Management v. Jackson*, Case No. 604244-07 (New York County Sup. Ct.). He is vice-chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Administrative Law Committee, a trustee for the Yale Club of Chicago Foundation, and an ethics committee member of USA Taekwondo.

DAYNE KONO

Principal  
Masuda, Funai, Eifert & Mitchell, Ltd.





For 30 years, **Dayne Kono** has represented Japanese multinationals investing and expanding in Illinois. Most recently, he assisted UACJ Corporation, Japan's largest aluminum manufacturer, to establish a U.S. holding company in Chicago and manage the post-merger integration of its recent acquisitions in North America. Kono continues to represent major Japan-based multinationals in negotiating global strategic alliances in the automotive, electronics, food and construction equipment industries. Since 1990, he has advised the Illinois Department of Commerce on its Japan business strategy. In September, working with Mark Peterson at Intersect Illinois and Erik Brejla at DCEO, Kono accompanied Governor Rauner on the successful Japan Trade Mission. As founding member of the Garden of the Phoenix Foundation, he has worked with the Chicago Park District and the local community to revitalize Jackson Park, re-establish the park's historic Japan connection, and, in 2016, install Yoko Ono's "SKYLANDING." He also serves on the board of the U.S.-Japan Council.

We congratulate our  
Most Influential Minority Lawyer

Christopher L.  
**HINES**

And applaud all of the honorees



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**DIANE WEBSTER**

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CHICAGO'S MOST INFLUENTIAL  
MINORITY LAWYERS




KAL SHAH

Congratulations to our partner,  
**Kal Shah**, recipient of Chicago's  
Most Influential Minority Lawyers.

We proudly salute Kal's contributions  
both to the practice of law and in his  
advancement of diversity initiatives  
within the legal community.

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Foley is pleased to congratulate  
Steve Cade, Jeanne M. Gills, and Z Scott  
on being recognized as Chicago's Most  
Influential Minority Lawyers


They continuously demonstrate Foley & Lardner's enduring commitment to  
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and Respect, Stewardship and Accountability, and Professional Satisfaction.*

For more information about Foley, please contact:  
Frank Pasquesi in our Chicago office at [fpasquesi@foley.com](mailto:fpasquesi@foley.com).

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MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITY LAWYERS IN CHICAGO

**JORGE M. LEON**  
*Partner*  
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP



**Jorge M. Leon** is a benefits lawyer whose clients include a global spirits distiller, a large Chicago medical institution, an international insurer, metals and consumer goods manufacturers, and Illinois’ largest municipality. His counsel impacts the retirement security of over 70,000 individuals. In the last 18 months, he handled transactions worth over \$500 million, defended a complicated IRS audit in an emerging area where he advanced new tax theories and interpretations that reached the national IRS office and that are influencing the development of tax policy, created a unique private healthcare exchange and ensured compliance for plans holding approximately \$7 billion. In this period, he became the firm’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee chair. Leon is a Gads Hill Center board member (119-year old non-profit serving Chicago’s Hispanic community), Economic Club of Chicago member, and was named a top Latino lawyer nationally by *Latino Lawyers Magazine*.

**JOSE A. LOPEZ**  
*Partner*  
Perkins Coie LLP



**Jose A. Lopez** is a partner in the securities litigation practice at Perkins Coie. He is a former Senior Enforcement Attorney with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, former prosecutor with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, former partner at Schopf & Weiss LLP (now known as Honigman), and former law clerk to the Honorable Morton Denlow, a now-retired U.S. Magistrate Judge. He has served on the board of the Hispanic Lawyers Scholarship Fund of Illinois and chaired Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission hearings. He currently serves as the firmwide chair for the Perkins Coie Strategic Diversity Committee, a national committee made up of representatives from each of Perkins Coie’s 16 offices in the United States. He spearheaded the creation of the Diverse Associate Bootcamp, an initiative that brings all of the firm’s diverse associates to one location so they can interact, connect and learn from some of the firm’s leaders (many of whom are themselves diverse), and receive access to important additional resources that will aid them at the outset of their Perkins Coie careers.

**CHRISTINA MARTINI**  
*Partner*  
DLA Piper



**Christina Martini** chairs DLA Piper’s Chicago Intellectual Property practice, serves as the firm’s National Hiring Partner-Associate Recruiting and is a member of the firm’s Executive Committee. Her global practice focuses on trademark, copyright, domain name, Internet, advertising and unfair competition. She creates global filing strategies to maximize clients’ protection of their valuable brands in a streamlined, cost-effective way, and manages the global registration, maintenance, enforcement, licensing and disposition of those rights. She also advises clients regarding domain name, social media and online advertising strategy and enforcement. She creates and implements intellectual property policies and process plans which are specifically tailored to meet clients’ legal and business needs. In April, she was one of four recipients of the 2017 Anti-Defamation League’s Women of Achievement Award.

**JOSEPH Q. MCCOY**  
*Partner*  
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP



**Joseph Q. McCoy** started the Business Transactions practice at RSHC wanting to work with Patricia Brown Holmes in a ground-breaking model that better aligns legal service with clients’ goals. He recently represented the City of Chicago on the Midway Airport redevelopment, the lead Lender and Administrative Agent on the construction financing for three hotel projects, and represented two corporations with their corporate headquarters relocation and office leases. His commitment to others is best reflected in his efforts helping younger lawyers learn the craft and grow books of business, instructing Northwestern University Law School students, and coaching youth basketball.

**SAM MENDENHALL**  
*Partner*  
Winston & Strawn LLP



**Sam Mendenhall** represents Fortune 500 companies and governmental agencies in antitrust litigation, class actions defense, and complex commercial litigation. Over the past 18 months, Mendenhall has built on his legacy of precedent-setting legal work, successful pro bono representations, and giving back to the Winston & Strawn and greater Chicago communities. Significant cases include representing the U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team in its fight for equal pay; a young man wrongfully arrested for armed robbery who was facing a mandatory minimum of 21 years, a case that resulted in the State’s Attorney’s office implementing a significant change in their arrest policy; a major automobile manufacturer in a class action alleging it and other automobile manufacturers conspired with the Japanese government to commit various war crimes during World War II; and one of the world’s largest oil companies in a major piece of litigation arising from an explosion on the Chicago River. He is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and Leadership Greater Chicago, an ordained minister and pastor at Grant Memorial AME Church, and a board member at Just The Beginning Foundation.

**YONDI MORRIS-ANDREWS**  
*Partner*  
Knight, Morris & Reddick Law Group



**Yondi Morris-Andrews** is a founding partner of Knight Morris & Reddick Law Group (KMR), a women and minority-owned law firm in Chicago. Her practice includes real estate and corporate matters, where she has serviced over 500 clients in the Chicagoland area. Shortly after founding KMR, Morris-Andrews co-founded KMR Legal Staffing, LLC, an agency that places lawyers at law firms and corporations for temporary assignments. KMR Legal Staffing has retained clients including Jones Day, Dyson and Allstate. She and her law partners organized a fundraiser for Flint, Michigan, where they hand-delivered over 5,000 cases of water to senior citizens and housing projects. She also chairs the Foundations College Prep board and serves on Legal Prep Academy’s associate board as the marketing and development chair. Morris-Andrews recently received the Ms. JD Strength in Numbers Award.

**SANJAY K. MURTHY**  
*Partner*  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP



**Sanjay K. Murthy** is a trial attorney who specializes in representing technology companies in high-stakes patent cases. He has represented Praxair, Inc., Baxter Healthcare and Baxalta, Inc., among many others. This year, he achieved two significant trial wins. Murthy was a lead partner in a complete trial victory for Praxair in an 11-patent infringement case filed by Mallinckrodt Hospital Products IP, INO Therapeutics LLC, and Ikaria Inc. in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. The asserted patents relate to INOMAX (inhaled nitric oxide, which is used to treat neonates and children with breathing disorders) and medical devices for delivering the same. INOMAX is Mallinckrodt’s second-best-selling product, with annual sales of \$500 million. Mallinckrodt was represented by a 12-lawyer team from a prestigious global firm, including its two global co-chairs of IP litigation and its global co-chair of litigation. In September, the court ruled that five of the asserted patents were invalid and that the other six were not infringed, which resulted in a complete victory for Praxair. The case received national press attention.

**RICK PALMORE**  
*Senior Counsel*  
Dentons US LLP



**Rick Palmore** advises public and private corporations and their leadership suites on risk management and governance issues. From 1996-2008, he held the titles of EVP, GC and secretary at Sara Lee Corporation. He was EVP, GC and chief compliance and risk management officer of General Mills Inc. from 2008-2015. He’s former chair of the Association of General Counsel, and a former board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, Public Interest Law Initiative, Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, and United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. He currently serves on the boards of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Express Scripts and Chicago Board Options Exchange. He is the author of “A Call to Action: Diversity in the Legal Profession,” a manifesto urging general counsel to drive diversity within their firms and departments. In 2009, the initiative developed into the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), which includes 275-plus corporate chief legal officers and law firm managing partners. He was the Founding Chair of LCLD and continues to serve on its executive committee. This year, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from *American Lawyer Magazine*.

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Margarita is licensed to practice in both Illinois and Mexico. She assists clients in domestic and international corporate matters and commercial transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate governance and compliance. She represents lenders and borrowers in domestic and international financings, including secured lending facilities, with a significant focus on Latin America and the NAFTA region.

Margarita counsels clients in doing business and limiting risk and exposure in the United States and Mexico including structuring and establishing their operations in these markets and covering aspects involving tax, labor, real estate, import, export, franchise, anti-corruption and general corporate matters.

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KRISTEN RODRIGUEZ

Partner  
Dentons US LLP



**Kristen Rodriguez** handles complex commercial and class-action litigation cases at the trial court and appellate levels, managing discovery and briefing in large-scale litigation. She provides counsel to clients regarding contracts, torts, advertising, media law, privacy and insurance. She recently: obtained summary judgment for Lincoln Benefit Life Company in a precedent-setting putative \$1 billion nationwide class action regarding alleged overcharges to universal life insurance policies; represented Redbox Automated Retail, LLC, in a cutting-edge putative nationwide class action under the federal Video Privacy Protection Act and obtained summary judgment in Redbox's favor; and achieved dismissal of multi-count defamation action concerning a matter of legitimate public concern brought by a Chicago public official against the National Broadcasting Company and the Better Government Association. Rodriguez chairs Dentons' Latino Professional Network, and is a member of the 2016 class of Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellows. She also coaches a state champion high school mock trial team and judges student mock trial competitions at all levels.

JESSE RUIZ

Partner  
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP



**Jesse Ruiz** is a partner in Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP's Corporate & Securities Group and earlier this year celebrated his 20th anniversary with the firm. Ruiz counsels clients on a variety of transactions, including mergers and acquisitions. He also serves as the firm's relationship partner for several major clients, managing and supervising all aspects of the firm's legal services for them, including corporate, intellectual property, employment and litigation matters. He has been recognized by *Latino Leaders* magazine as a Top Latino Lawyer and by *Diversity* and *the Bar* magazine as one of its 15 Rainmakers Who Always Shine. He also serves as president of the Chicago Board of Education, interim CEO of Chicago Public Schools and chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education. He is also a Democratic candidate for Illinois Attorney General.

Z SCOTT

Partner  
Foley & Lardner LLP



**Z Scott** has over 30 years of diverse legal, litigation, ethics and compliance experience. She has counseled executives and corporate boards on a broad range of legal issues and led complex organizations and legal teams, including serving four years as chair of the Chicago Housing Authority and as the inaugural leader of the Illinois Office of Executive Inspector General. Her experience includes serving as a federal criminal prosecutor where she held leadership positions including chief of the General Crimes Section. In her practice, she assists clients in high-stakes regulatory matters, conducts corporate internal investigations, and helps companies in the assessment and development of global corporate compliance programs and crisis management and risk mitigation. She was named to Chambers USA's White Collar Crime and Government Investigations list from 2012- 2017; *Illinois Super Lawyers*, 2009-present; *US News Best Lawyers*, 2007-present; as well as the Chicago Bar Association Vanguard Award and Profiles in Diversity Award, the Chicago Bar Association Alliance for Women Founders Award, and many others. She is a member of the Chicago Network and serves on the board of Just the Beginning.

KAL SHAH

Partner  
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP



**Kal Shah** chairs the firm's Intellectual Property Litigation Practice Group, representing Fortune 500 and multinational companies in matters spanning a variety of scientific and technical areas. Most recently, Shah was involved in a matter that affirmed the application of the Supreme Court's TC Heartland decision, winning for his client, St. Jude Medical SC Inc., the dismissal of a patent infringement suit against them. He has won dismissals in other notable cases, including representation of Hotwire and Lighting Science Group in patent infringement matters and Indie Fresh in a trade secrets case. Additionally, he defended Orbitz against a patent infringement claim, obtaining a finding of non-infringement. As co-chair of Benesch's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and a member of the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) and the Asian American Bar Association (AABA), Shah has helped revamp the firm's diversity program. Shah is a member of the 2017 class of LCLD Fellows, a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity program. He's also a past recipient of the Award of Excellence in Pro Bono Service from the Judges of the Northern District of Illinois and the Federal Bar Association, Chicago Chapter.

TEJAS SHAH

Immigration Counsel  
Franczek Radelet P.C.



Over the last 18 months, **Tejas Shah** has established himself as one of the leading immigration lawyers in the city. Shah brings his expertise to a wide range of clients, including educational institutions, governmental agencies, banking, transportation, manufacturing and health sciences. He navigates clients through the complexities of our immigration laws, including visa sponsorships, guidance on immigration executive orders and sanctuary schools, rescission of DACA, travel restrictions, communication plans, and developing sponsorship policies. Shah is active with the South Asian Bar Association of North America, South Asian Bar Association of Chicago, Illinois State Bar Association, and numerous nonprofits. He chaired a nonprofit legal clinic supported by Chicago Volunteer Legal Services and represents asylum seekers through the National Immigrant Justice Center. He is a 2015 fellow and executive board member with New Leaders Council of Chicago. Shah has been recognized with a Distinguished Volunteer Award from Chicago Volunteer Legal Services; Young Lawyer of the Year Award in Cook County from the Illinois State Bar Association; and the Cornerstone Award from South Asian Bar Association of North America.

JEAN SOH

Shareholder  
Polsinelli



**Jean Soh** focuses on bankruptcy, restructuring and creditors' rights and related litigation in all manner of in-court and out-of-court proceedings. She has experience with loan workouts, 363 sales, Article 9 sales, assignments for the benefit of creditors, preference and fraudulent transfer actions, receiverships, judicial commercial foreclosures and sales under the Uniform Commercial Code, and other remedies against commercial borrowers. Her practice spans many different industries with an emphasis on assisting financial institutions and servicers in connection with workouts and foreclosures of real estate secured loans. Prior to joining Polsinelli, Soh served as a judicial law clerk in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. She also served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon and as an intern for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania, which led her to represent asylum seekers under the auspices of the National Immigrant Justice Center. She is a recipient of the first Excellence in Mentorship Award presented by LegalTrek, a program sponsored by the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms.

DOMINGO SUCH

Partner  
Perkins Coie



As the first trust & estate planning attorney in Perkins Coie's Chicago office, **Domingo Such's** practice continues to play an important role in the firm's growth since he joined the firm in 2013. Such was appointed firm-wide chair of the Family Office Services practice, counseling operating businesses and closely-held entities that manage investments, trusts and financial and legal services. He manages the top client relationship in the Chicago office, which has involved intensely contested litigation that the firm took over after over a decade with prior trial counsel. The 14-year-old case was successfully settled under confidential terms this year. Such has been named a Best Lawyer by *The Best Lawyers in America* and was selected as one of the top 100 estate planning attorneys in the U.S. by *Worth*. He also earned fellow status with the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Such works with community organizations including the Chicago Art Institute's Asian Art Council, the Loyola University Quinlan School of Business Family Business Center, the Chicago Community Trust Professional Advisory Committee and the Conference of Asian Pacific American Leadership in Washington, D.C.

RICARDO UGARTE

Partner and International Arbitration  
Practice Chair  
Winston & Strawn LLP



**Ricardo Ugarte** applies his multilingual capabilities (English, French, Italian, Spanish) to advising a wide variety of clients in oil and energy, finance, telecoms, pharma, construction and manufacturing in a broad range of international disputes. Winston has been named as a "Top Arbitration Firm" by *The American Lawyer* Scorecard due in large measure to Ugarte's big-ticket arbitrations. He has overseen the practice's strategic expansion with the addition of several top-tier attorneys in London, New York, Dubai and Asia. His recent cases include representing a Canadian company in a dispute governed by Chinese law arising out of a natural gas concession in China with amounts in dispute over \$1 billion; representing an Asian oil company in a dispute arising out of an oil field concession in Kazakhstan governed by English law; representing telecom entrepreneur Michael Dagher in the first investment arbitration filed against the Republic of Sudan concerning a wireless internet network; and advising the Republic of Ecuador in a multi-jurisdictional dispute filed by Chevron. He was named *National Law Journal's* "ADR Champion" for 2017 and was named to *The Legal 500* in the U.S., Latin America and UK.

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Our warmest congratulations to **Karen Harris** on her recognition as one of the Most Influential Minority Lawyers in Chicago.

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**RESPICIO F. VAZQUEZ**  
*Partner*  
Franczek Radelet P.C.



**Respicio F. Vazquez** has focused his career on education law, both K-12 and higher

education. Vazquez has served as in-house counsel for the Chicago Public Schools; as general counsel at City Colleges of Chicago, and as general counsel and state superintendent of education at the Illinois Board of Education. He was the first Hispanic to serve as state superintendent. A River Forest resident, he also was appointed to serve on the Inclusiveness Advisory Board at River Forest School District 90, and was this year elected as a village trustee. For the second time in his career, he was the first Hispanic to serve in a public service leadership position. He also serves with the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation Leadership Lab. Members are motivated to take on active roles to serve the community and committed to applying their leadership skills to explore and assess opportunities.

**EVERETT S. WARD**  
*Partner*  
Quarles & Brady LLP



**Everett S. Ward**, a real estate finance lawyer for over 30 years, manages the firm's

representation of an S&P 500 real estate investment trust that is one of the largest publicly traded owners, operators and developers of multi-family housing in the United States. He has a national practice in commercial real estate finance law, with a focus on real estate investment trusts (REITS) and joint ventures. Recent transactions have ranged in value from \$5 million to more than \$200 million. He is a fellow in both the American College of Real Estate Attorneys and the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. He has served as co-chairman of the Practising Law Institute's annual Chicago Real Estate Financing Program. Ward currently serves on the board of trustees of the Field Museum of Chicago, the board of directors of the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation and the State of Illinois Real Estate Administration and Disciplinary Board.

**DIANE E. WEBSTER**  
*Partner-in-Charge of Chicago*  
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP



**Diane E. Webster** defends clients in commercial litigation, medical

and healthcare claims, product and pharmaceutical liability, and medical/surgical device claims. Her clients include corporations, hospitals and physicians, insurance companies, state and county governments, and a major league baseball organization. In the last year, she represented a gastroenterologist and his group in a wrongful death trial in which the plaintiff sought \$3.65 million; the jury returned a not guilty verdict. She also represented an oncologist in a medical malpractice trial in which the plaintiff sought \$21 million; the jury returned a not guilty verdict. She co-chairs the firm's Hispanic Affinity Network, is an inaugural fellow in the Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity and a member of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois.

**MICHAEL A. WILDER**  
*Shareholder*  
Littler Mendelson, P.C.



**Michael A. Wilder** manages employment litigation for numerous Fortune 500

companies. In 2016 and 2017, he obtained favorable dispositive motion decisions and received complete dismissals of hundreds of administrative charges. This year, he led a team that created the Illinois Accelerator, aimed at assisting start-up businesses with employment issues. He serves as the Chicago office's hiring shareholder, was appointed to the Global Board of Governance Committee, and serves on the Shareholder Profitability Committee and the Diversity & Inclusion Council. Wilder also recently co-founded the Black Men's Lawyers Association. The *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* and *Chicago Lawyer* named him to their 40 Under 40 lists, and he received the Chicago-Kent College of Law's Outstanding Young Alumni Award and Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Cook County Bar Association's Presidential Award and Junior Counselor Award.

**THEODORE I. YI**  
*Partner*  
Quarles & Brady LLP



**Theodore I. Yi** is a real estate lawyer with more than 30 years of experience in Chicago.

In 2017, he negotiated the disposition of a downtown hospital, represented the owner of a downtown office property in a lease of over 150,000 square feet, represented an international trading firm in an expansion and restructure of its Chicago data center facility, represented a Chicago foundation in the relocation of its office and retail facilities, and represented a global management consulting firm in its lease of over 14,000 square feet outside the U.S. Yi is on the firm's Executive Committee and is the immediate past managing partner of the Chicago office. He is a board member of the Chicago Bar Foundation, Chicago Architecture Foundation and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He was named a Business Leader of Color by Chicago United and is a co-founder of the Chinatown and Asian American Legal Service Clinic.



**Sam Mendenhall**



**Ricardo Ugarte**

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**Everett S. Ward**, Partner,  
Quarles & Brady LLP



**Theodore I. Yi**, Partner,  
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