

Spotlight On Freeborn & Peters' Land Use and Real Estate Practice Group

Freeborn & Peters Expands Real Estate Practice with Addition of Four Attorneys

Freeborn & Peters is pleased to announce the growth of its Real Estate and Land Use Practice with the addition of attorneys Edward L. Filer, Tina M. Bird, Adam C. Toosley and Ashley W. Brandt. All four attorneys join the firm from the Chicago office of Clark Hill PLC, where they concentrated their practices on construction law, real estate and banking.

[Ed Filer](#) was the managing member of Clark Hill's Chicago office and chair of its Construction Group prior to joining Freeborn & Peters. Mr. Filer has nearly 20 years of experience as a business counselor and trial attorney, maintaining a national practice that focuses on the construction, real estate and banking industries. He represents material suppliers, subcontractors, contractors, construction managers, design-builders, architects, owners, sureties, developers and financial institutions in every aspect of their business. Mr. Filer's practice includes general corporate counseling, contract drafting and negotiation, business reorganizations and restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, business workouts, arbitrations, civil trials, mediations, claim preparation and mid-project analysis. Mr. Filer will head Freeborn & Peters' Construction Services Group.

[Tina Bird](#) has 15 years of experience in all areas of construction law, real estate matters and related litigation. Her practice is nationwide and includes contract drafting and negotiation, arbitrations, civil trials, mediations, claim preparation and mid-project analysis. Ms. Bird represents material suppliers, subcontractors, contractors, construction managers, design-builders, architects, owners, sureties and developers in every aspect of their business.

[Adam Toosley](#) is an experienced construction law attorney who has handled a broad range of disputes, including those based on construction defects and contracts, warranty law, the Uniform Commercial Code, fraud and business torts, deceptive business practices, trust and estate-related improprieties, and product liability. He has practiced in all three Federal District courts in Illinois, the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and in both the Illinois Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.

[Ashley Brandt](#) concentrates his practice in commercial litigation, construction, professional liability, state and local government matters, and real estate law. Mr. Brandt has significant experience with corporate governance issues, mechanic's liens, contract drafting, contract negotiation and contract enforcement, and he has represented clients involved in both public and private construction projects. He has handled claims for and against architects, engineers, owners, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and lenders. Additionally, he has extensive experience in appellate practice, criminal law, municipal and state law, federal licensing regulation and probate matters.

Freeborn & Peters Attorneys Present "A Guide to Financial Incentives for Real Estate Development"

On November 1, 2011, [Rick Wendy](#), [Jerry Callaghan](#) and [Mitch Carrel](#), Partners in the firm's Real Estate and Land Use Group, presented, "A Guide to Financial Incentives for Real Estate Development," in conjunction with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. The State of Illinois, as well as units of local government, offer a broad range of financial incentives to businesses to build, expand, rehabilitate and relocate buildings and other facilities. Incentives are powerful development tools that provide leverage in circumstances where funding from other sources are simply not sufficient to support the project. Incentives effectively "close the gap." Rick, Jerry and Mitch guided attendees through the range of incentives available to maximize the feasibility and profitability of a development project, including how to bundle multiple incentives for the greatest effect, including sales tax rebates, Tax Increment Financing, EDGE tax credits, 6B property tax incentives and High Impact Business state income tax rebates.

Ed Hannon Presents at Stafford's Live Seminar, "Tax Issues in Real Estate Loan & Lease Workouts, Foreclosures and Short Sales"

[Ed Hannon](#), a Partner in both the Real Estate and Land Use and Business Law Practice Groups, was a panelist at Stafford's November 9, 2011 seminar on "Tax Issues in Real Estate Loan and Lease Workouts, Foreclosures and Short Sales." High loan default rates continue to challenge the real estate sector. Property owners seek to modify loans or dispose of property by foreclosures, deeds-in lieu and short sales. But cancellation of indebtedness (COD) income and potential taxable gains/losses may be the unexpected

consequences. To choose the best course of action, counsel to borrowers, lenders and property owners need to understand the tax impact of modifying loans or disposing of property. Mr. Hannon and his fellow panelists outlined best practices for managing tax consequences associated with these transactions.

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If you have any questions or would like assistance regarding the matters discussed above, please contact the editors of *Development News*:

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