

## Katten Names 11 New Partners

April 4, 2007

CHICAGO – The Board of Directors of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP is pleased to announce that it has elected 11 attorneys to partner.

"This is a group of very talented attorneys," said Vincent A. F. Sergi, the Firm's National Managing Partner. "They have all demonstrated the commitment to professionalism and dedication to client service that we expect of those who advance in the firm, and we look forward to their continued success."

The board selected attorneys from seven practices (Corporate, Commercial Finance, Intellectual Property, Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Real Estate, Tax Planning, Trusts and Estates) across four Firm offices.

### **In Chicago:**

Valentina Famparska, in the Tax Planning Practice, concentrates on federal and state taxation, focusing in venture capital, private equity and emerging growth companies, partnerships, and mergers and acquisitions. Ms. Famparska graduated from Sofia University School of Law, Bulgaria with a law degree and highest honors. In Bulgaria, she practiced for five years in the areas of commercial law, corporate law and taxation. She also worked as a legal advisor for the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance, Department of Taxation. Ms. Famparska received a law degree, *magna cum laude*, from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Brooks T. Giles, in the Corporate Practice, concentrates on private company mergers and acquisitions. He has represented both buyers and sellers in acquisitions, including stock purchases, asset sales, tax-free mergers, and leveraged buyout situations. Mr. Giles also has experience in public and private corporate finance transactions, including registered and 144A debt offerings, registered equity offerings and venture capital financings. His public company experience includes mergers, tender offers, hostile proxy contests and general corporate advice, including poison pills. Mr. Giles received his B.A. from the University of Chicago and holds both a J.D. with honors and an LL.M. from Duke University School of Law.

Derek F. Ladgenski, in the Commercial Finance Practice, concentrates on all aspects of corporate finance, including secured and unsecured senior financing, mezzanine financing, equity co-investments and similar products for a wide variety of lending syndicates and institutional and entrepreneurial finance and corporate clients. He has experience with several distinct lending products, including secured and unsecured asset-based and cash flow loans, debtor-in-possession financings, loans to distressed companies, securitizations, Islamic Shari'ah-compliant loans, real estate-based loan packages, loans to energy and utility companies and secured and unsecured mezzanine loans. Mr. Ladgenski holds a B.S. with distinction and a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Stephen J. Lombardo, III, in the Corporate Practice, concentrates his work primarily in the areas of private equity/venture capital, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate work. He has worked on a wide range of transactions (valued from \$1 million to \$15 billion) representing clients in a wide variety of industries including restaurant and food, technology, manufacturing, healthcare, aerospace, and finance. He holds a B.S.B.A. as well as a J.D. from Georgetown University, and is also a CPA.

Eric A. Smith, in the Corporate Practice, focuses his work primarily in private equity and mergers and acquisitions, but also counsels clients in matters related to public and private securities matters. His primary focus is representing private equity funds and their portfolio companies. He has also been involved in providing advice to corporate clients involved in leveraged buyouts, consolidations, restructurings and various other types of corporate transactions, as well as to executives involved in various private equity transactions. Mr. Smith holds a B.S. with honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a joint J.D., *magna cum laude*, M.B.A. from the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Philip J. Tortorich, in the Trusts and Estates Practice, concentrates in the areas of tax- and estate-planning matters, primarily representing wealthy individuals and closely-held corporations. His work includes consulting with clients regarding tax-efficient structuring of corporate entities, including C corporations, S corporations, limited-liability companies, limited partnerships, and hybrid-type entities. He also designs trusts that shift the future growth of a client's net worth out of the client's estate while minimizing the exposure to gift taxation. Mr. Tortorich regularly advises clients on structuring personal family investment companies, as well as their philanthropic goals. He holds a B.A. from Loyola University Chicago and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

### **In Los Angeles:**

James J. Thompson, in the Corporate Practice, counsels clients on a wide range of matters including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, reorganizations, formation and financing transactions for

emerging growth companies, public and private offerings of equity and debt securities, 1933 Securities Act and 1934 Exchange Act compliance and periodic reporting, corporate governance matters and general corporate representation. He advises publicly-traded corporations and privately-held corporations and other business entities, investment banks, commercial banks and other financial institutions. He has represented clients in industries including, technology, e-commerce and the Internet, health care, biotechnology, real estate, gaming, entertainment, education, financial services and consulting sectors. He holds a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Georgetown University and a J.D. from the University of Southern California School of Law.

Laurie Cohen Yoo, in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice, concentrates her practice in real estate litigation. Ms. Yoo represents retail shopping center owners, managers, and developers in a wide range of matters including lease enforcement, public access, and disability discrimination (ADA). She regularly counsels clients on shopping center management issues and enforcement of private property interests. She holds a B.A., *cum laude*, from Pomona College and a J.D. from UCLA School of Law.

#### **In New York:**

Julie Pechersky, in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice, focuses on the defense of private and publicly-traded companies and their directors and officers in securities actions, directors' and officers' liability actions, and governmental and regulatory investigations and litigation. She also serves as counsel to companies in internal investigations. Ms. Pechersky has represented clients in a wide range of matters relating to allegations of accounting irregularities and securities fraud. Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Pechersky clerked for Chief Judge Sylvia Rambo, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. She holds a B.A. with honors from the University of Pittsburgh and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Susan Lee Saslow, in the Real Estate Practice, concentrates in all aspects of real estate transactional matters, including commercial acquisitions and dispositions, leasing, real estate finance and development of all types of real properties. Her practice primarily focuses in the areas of conventional and securitized real estate financings. She has extensive experience representing institutional clients and private investors and developers in sophisticated debt and equity financings, advising both borrowers and lenders in complex transactions involving multi-state, multi-property portfolios, mezzanine financings, securitized loan originations, construction loans and loan participations. She holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University and earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from Albany Law School of Union University.

#### **In Washington:**

Justin L. Krieger, in the Intellectual Property Practice, focuses on intellectual property litigation, patent prosecution, and client counseling with a technical background in chemistry. Mr. Krieger concentrates on patent litigation and has participated in all phases of patent litigation including discovery, trial and appeals. As a registered patent attorney, Mr. Krieger is also actively involved in prosecuting patent applications in the chemical engineering, metallurgical, nanotechnology, medical device, mechanical, consumer products, business method and software technology fields. He has extensive experience prosecuting domestic and international patent applications including reexamination and reissue applications. He has also provided numerous non-infringement and validity opinions in the chemical, polymer and mechanical arts from both due diligence and litigation perspectives. Mr. Krieger received a B.S. in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary and his J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law.

---

## CONTACTS

For more information, contact your Katten attorney or any of the following attorneys.



**Valentina Famparska**

+1.312.902.5451

[valentina.famparska@katten.com](mailto:valentina.famparska@katten.com)



**Brooks T. Giles**

+1.312.902.5386

[brooks.giles@katten.com](mailto:brooks.giles@katten.com)



**Derek F. Ladgenski**

+1.312.902.5485

[dl@katten.com](mailto:dl@katten.com)

Attorney advertising. Published as a source of information only. The material contained herein is not to be construed as legal advice or opinion.

©2026 Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP.

All rights reserved. Katten refers to Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and the affiliated partnership as explained at [katten.com/disclaimer](https://katten.com/disclaimer).