

July 2008

Ulmer & Berne LLP and Nine of Its Attorneys Received Top Rankings by *Chambers USA*

CLEVELAND (July 14, 2008) — Ulmer & Berne LLP, one of Ohio's largest law firms, announced that the Firm and nine of its partners have received top rankings in the 2008 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. This is the sixth year in a row that Ulmer & Berne and its attorneys have been ranked so highly.

The Firm was distinguished as a leading law firm in Ohio for its construction, employee benefits & executive compensation, litigation and real estate practices.

Construction: *Chambers USA* highlights Ulmer & Berne's specialty in "representing architects and design professionals" while also representing owners and contractors. Chambers also notes the team's "multidisciplinary approach to its practice, calling upon the expertise of members of the firm's other practice areas to offer clients a very broad service."

Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation: *Chambers USA* reports that commentators praise the group as being "talented and vibrant," while having "a strong awareness of the local market and they understand the pressures of smaller companies." The publication further reports that the group has "extensive experience designing and implementing employee benefit, executive compensation and pension plans."

Litigation: *Chambers USA* recognizes the firm for "its substantial number of skilled commercial litigators who are active in a broad range of complex commercial disputes. From antitrust work to breach of contract claims, the team handles the range of commercial issues and has been handling an increasing amount of class action defense."

Real Estate: *Chambers USA* details Ulmer & Berne's representation of "big-name clients" and also recognizes the group's "strong leasing practice" and its "national affordable housing practice that represents contractors, developers, lenders, equity syndicates and nonprofit organizations."

Nine Ulmer & Berne partners were recognized by *Chambers USA*, including: Joseph A. Castrodale (Litigation), Bill J. Gagliano (Real Estate), John J. Haggerty (Litigation), Ronald L. Kahn (Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation), Marvin L. Karp

1660 West 2nd St.
Suite 1100
Cleveland, Ohio
44113-1448
firm 216.583.7000
fax 216.583.7001

www.ulmer.com



(Litigation), Craig S. Miller (Real Estate), Patricia A. Shlonsky (Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation), Michael N. Ungar (Litigation), and F. Thomas Vickers (Construction).

Joseph A. Castrodale, a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, represents numerous large publicly traded companies and his practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and class action litigation. He also represents clients in shareholder disputes, contract disputes, and UCC matters. Additionally, Joe's expertise includes all types of ADR proceedings. *Chambers USA* reports Joe "has the creativity and passion to serve clients well." Joe has also been named an "Ohio Super Lawyer" by Law & Politics and named to *Best Lawyers in America* by Woodward/White.

Bill J. Gagliano, Chair of the Firm's Real Estate Group, has more than 25 years of experience. Gagliano was recognized by *Chambers USA* for the fourth consecutive year for his broad practice that includes construction law, affordable housing, development, property taxation and abatement and leasing. He has also been named to *Best Lawyers in America*, recognized as an "Ohio Super Lawyer," and also named a "Leading Lawyer" by *Inside Business* magazine.

John J. Haggerty, Chair of Ulmer & Berne's Business Litigation Group and a member of the Firm's Management Committee, handles complex commercial, product liability, mass tort and class action litigation matters for major corporations in state and federal courts throughout the country. He was distinguished by *Chambers USA* for the fourth year in a row and "impresses clients with his pragmatic and reasonable counsel." *Chambers USA* reports John tenaciously pursues his clients' interests, all the while demonstrating his "skill in the courtroom and flair in litigation." John is also one of only 113 attorneys nationally to be named to the *2007 BTI Client Service All-Star Team* for law firms. He has been recognized as an "Ohio Super Lawyer" and prior to that, an "Ohio Super Lawyer Rising Star."

Ronald L. Kahn, Chair of the Firm's Tax Practice Group, has extensive experience and expertise in the area of employee benefits. Kahn has been recognized by *Chambers USA* for the third straight year for his work in employee benefits and executive compensation. *Chambers USA* reports that Kahn has been described as a "skilled and hard-working attorney," and was commended for his ability to "recognize the issues and look for creative solutions to problems." He has also been named to *Best Lawyers in America* and named an "Ohio Super Lawyer."

Marvin L. Karp, Chair Emeritus of the Firm's Litigation Department, has more than 45 years of trial and appellate experience in business, corporate and insurance litigation.



He was honored by *Chambers USA* as a Senior Statesman in Ohio, “a distinguished presence at the firm” and “a truly fantastic, first-class lawyer.” In 2007, Karp received The Ohio Bar Medal for “unusually meritorious service to the legal profession and the community.” He has also been recognized as one of the Top 10 attorneys in Ohio, and has been listed in every edition of *Best Lawyers in America* since 1983.

Craig S. Miller, Chair of Ulmer & Berne’s Public Law Group, has over 30 years of experience. He has been distinguished by *Chambers USA* as a leading real estate attorney for the past three years with the publication recognizing his strong focus in the areas of urban redevelopment, zoning and land use issues, financing, and construction. Craig has also been recognized as an “Ohio Super Lawyer” and a “Leading Lawyer.”

Patricia A. Shlonsky, Chair of the Firm’s Employee Benefits Group, has more than 20 years of experience assisting clients in the establishment, qualification and maintenance of all types of employee benefit plans. *Chambers USA* reports that she is highly regarded for her wide-ranging practice and years of experience. Respondents described Patty as a “clear-sighted, eloquent litigator.” Patty has also been recognized as a *Top 50 Female Super Lawyer*, named to *Best Lawyers in America* and also recognized as a *Top Lawyer* by *Northern Ohio Live* magazine.

F. Thomas Vickers, Chair of the Firm’s Construction Litigation Group, represents public and private owners, contractors, architects and engineers in all phases of construction-related matters. *Chambers USA* reports that the “utterly excellent” Tom Vickers handles all aspects of construction litigation while focusing his practice on the representation of design professionals. *Chambers* has stated that Vickers also “inspires widespread praise from his clients” and provides “thorough research and [a] meticulous work product [that] never fails to put me at ease,” according to one client. He has also been named an “Ohio Super Lawyer” and named to *Best Lawyers in America*.

Michael N. Ungar, Chair of the Litigation Department, has a national business litigation practice that encompasses a broad range of general business disputes, with a focus on banking, securities and broker-dealer matters, class actions and other types of complex litigation, including defense of shareholder and derivative claims, trade secrets/unfair competition, SEC, NASD and NYSE investigations, and professional liability. *Chambers USA* reports that Mike is lauded as a “wonderful lawyer,” and was commended for his extensive business litigation experience and for his reputation as a “razor-sharp litigator and all-around high-class guy.” He has also been recognized for the past two years as one of the Top 10 attorneys in Ohio and an “Ohio Super Lawyer,” named to *Best Lawyers in America*, and selected as a *Leading Lawyer*.



Chambers USA is published by London-based, top legal publishers Chambers & Partners Legal Publishers, which produces a similar directory in the United Kingdom. The US directory lists top attorneys by state. The attorneys listed were chosen after more than 40 full-time researchers conducted over 14,000 interviews with clients and attorneys. According to Chambers & Partners, law firms and individual attorneys are ranked based on “technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment and other qualities most valued by the client.” The directory also includes comments on each attorney that come directly from the interviews conducted by the researchers.

Ulmer & Berne LLP, established in 1908 and celebrating its 100th year, is one of Ohio’s largest law firms. In a survey of Fortune 500 companies by *Corporate Counsel* magazine, Ulmer & Berne has been chosen as a Go-To Law Firm® for both 2007 and 2008. Less than one-half of one percent of all the law firms in the US and abroad received this distinction. Also, in 2007, the Firm was recognized in The BTI Consulting Group’s survey of corporate counsel as one of only 85 firms nationally that “delivers the best value for the dollar.”

A full-service Firm with nearly 180 attorneys in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Chicago, Ulmer & Berne represents publicly traded and privately held companies, financial institutions, pharmaceutical companies, family businesses, international joint ventures and affiliations, investor groups, start-ups and emerging businesses, public bodies and nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.ulmer.com.



This News Release is written by the lawyers of Ulmer & Berne LLP exclusively for clients and friends. It is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For reprints, contact our Marketing Department at 216.583.7304. Fax: 216.583.7305.

© 2008 Ulmer & Berne LLP, Attorneys at Law. All rights reserved.