

2006

# 40 under forty



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**2006**

**40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch**

Supplement to Chicago Daily Law Bulletin® and Chicago Lawyer®



**Michael A. Moynihan** Age 38

**Firm:**

Freeborn & Peters LLP  
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**Law School:**

Loyola University School of Law

**Area of Practice:**

Commercial Real Estate and Financing

“Mike could and did. Mike displayed intellect, maturity and savvy belying his relatively young age.”

sive development project. But he always manages to get it done. “I have never seen Mike in a situation that he couldn't handle,” explains Bradley Alge, Associate Professor at the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University, who has known Moynihan for 25 years. “He is graceful under fire. I believe it is Mike's innate and unique ability to inspire, motivate and influence people that have enabled him to achieve at the highest levels in his field.”

Now a partner with the Chicago law firm of Freeborn & Peters, he is recognized as one of the city's top lawyers in commercial real estate and financing. Moynihan has also risen quickly through the ranks, earning equity partnership at the firm last year when he was only 37.

“His quick rise at Freeborn & Peters is evidence of his ability to quickly adapt to new situations,” said Prabha Parameswaran with Lincolnshire-based Hewitt Associates, who worked with Moynihan on a real estate deal last year. “He not only engenders trust and confidence from his clients, but also a great sense of loyalty and partnership.”

As Moynihan has built his legal career, he has also earned the trust of his clients who look to him not only for legal advice, but also for his judgment and business opinions.

These skills were evident last year when Moynihan worked with a regional real estate developer to acquire a huge portfolio of office properties in several states. Problem was, the portfolio was significantly larger and more expensive than the developer could digest; and the owner would not sell any assets separately. For tax and other reasons, the properties had to be acquired within a matter of weeks and the unwanted

assets would have to be sold off simultaneously for the deal to work. It probably wasn't going to happen.

Attorney Gary Liles, with the Little Rock, Ark.-based law firm of Eichenbaum, Likes & Heister, P.A., recommended that the developer, his client, hire Moynihan. At the same time, Liles advised the developer that the chances of successfully accomplishing the deal were slim.

But some people like a good challenge.

In a short period, Moynihan assembled a team of Freeborn & Peters lawyers, divided up thousands of tasks and quarterbacked the simultaneous closing of a complex group of purchase, sale and financing transactions. The sale involved hundreds of millions of dollars in real estate and closed without a hitch.

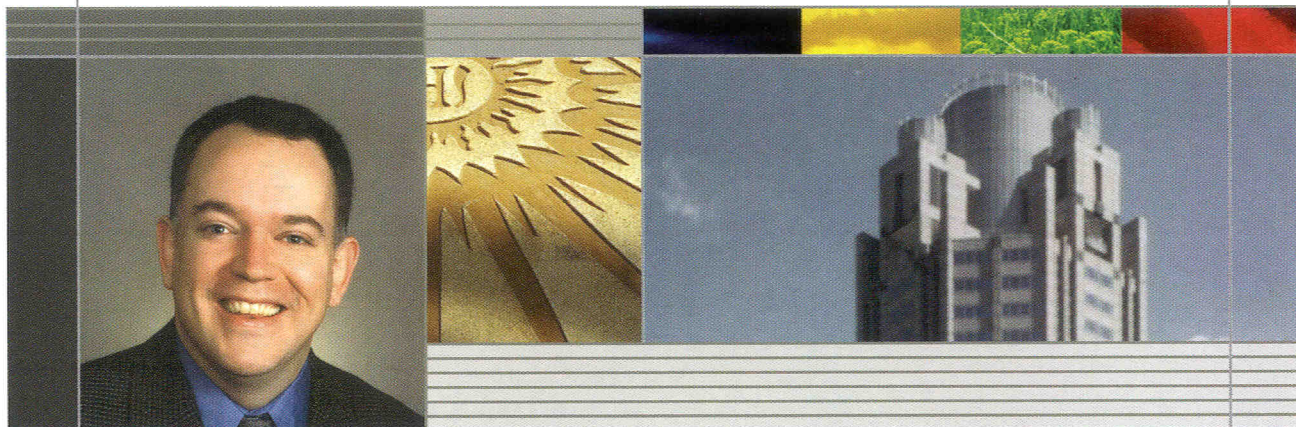
“I have worked with a lot of excellent lawyers in my over 30 years of practice from coast to coast. I can honestly say very few of them would have juggled the incredible number of simultaneous tasks that needed to be accomplished in such a short time frame and, at the same time, never giving up or losing sight of the ultimate goal regardless of the obstacles that kept popping up,” Liles said. “Fortunately for my client, Mike could and did. Mike displayed intellect, maturity and savvy belying his relatively young age.”

In addition to his responsibilities at Freeborn & Peters, Moynihan, his wife and two children are active members of Old St. Pat's Church, where he has served in a number of leadership roles, including as chairman of this year's Annual Fund. He is also active in the New South Loop Association, the Chicago Real Estate Council and Illinois Bar Association.

Chicago real estate lawyer Michael Moynihan always gets handed the impossible. Move a college campus before school starts; buy and sell \$300 Million in real estate assets in 30 days; restructure a mas-

# Freeborn & Peters LLP

Attorneys at Law



Michael A. Moynihan, Partner  
Freeborn & Peters LLP  
Chicago Office

*"We've visited with many national firms, but the only attorney to whom we entrust the outsourcing of our transactions is Mike Moynihan."*

– J. Dana Tsakanikas,  
Sr.VP, RockBridge Capital, LLC

*"There are not many other attorneys in Chicago – certainly none under the age of 40 – who could have mastered so complex a transaction so completely in such a highly compressed period of time."*

– Howard A Tullman,  
President, Kendall College

*"There is a quality in Mike which gives people confidence in themselves and in him; Mike is a leader."*

– Stacey Thomas Balten,  
Belgravia Group. Ltd.

## Nature or Nurture?

This year, Michael Moynihan becomes the sixth Freeborn & Peters partner since 2000 to be named as one of the *Law Bulletin's* prestigious *40 Under Forty*. Is this track record of achievement the result of a culture at Freeborn & Peters which encourages excellence, or are we just good at hiring great lawyers?

We'd like to think it's both, but one thing is certain. As Mike continues the tradition of excellence begun by Freeborn & Peters' *40 Under Forty* laureates Roger Bickel, Todd Ohlms, John Lee, Hillard Sterling, and Harley Goldstein, the real winners are our clients.

POWER & finesse

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