

Freeborn & Peters Corporate-Transactional Partner Brian A. Smith Named One of '40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch' for 2012 by Law Bulletin Publishing Company

Thirteen Firm Lawyers Selected for '40 Under Forty' Since 2000

CHICAGO, Oct. 1, 2012 - **Freeborn & Peters LLP** is pleased to announce that firm partner and corporate-transactional attorney **Brian A. Smith** was named one of the "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch" for 2012 by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company, publisher of Chicago Lawyer magazine and the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. Mr. Smith was selected from among more than 1,300 lawyer nominations this year. Freeborn & Peters is one of only a few law firms that has had an attorney recognized by "40 Under Forty" each year since the program began in 2000.

"40 Under Forty" recognizes attorneys regarded as the "up and comers" of law in Illinois. According to the publisher, honorees must exhibit intelligence, passion, success, a desire to help the community and especially a willingness to work hard in the legal profession. Attorneys cannot nominate themselves or other attorneys from their own law firm, corporation or public entity.

"Brian is an outstanding attorney and business counselor whose peers and clients repeatedly comment on his unique combination of technical proficiency and creative problem solving," said Peter I. Mason, Chairman of the firm's Executive Committee. "We appreciate why his clients would go out of their way to nominate Brian for this honor, and we congratulate him and all of the other '40 Under Forty' honorees at our firm who have come before him. This annual recognition is a testament to our firm's proud history of continually attracting, developing and retaining some of the industry's top young attorneys."

Mr. Smith was praised by his clients for his skills and talents, as well as his propensity to find solutions.

"Brian was the lead tax attorney on a minority share transaction," said Jeffery B. Wampler, counsel for Jimmy Johns, LLC, who has worked with Mr. Smith since 2006. "His work and talents allowed us to close the deal with minimal tax issues. Just as important, Brian's ability to manage the process during the transaction allowed for the entire matter to go smoothly, not just the tax work."

Sara Lee Keller, executive vice president and general counsel of Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc., added, "Brian has a command of the tax code that allows him to immediately provide advice and direction. He is solution oriented – always trying to find a way to obtain his client's desired goals. I have worked with many tax attorneys, most of whom are naysayers. Brian is a breath of fresh air as he works with the client to find the right balance of risk and reward."

Mr. Smith also has impressed colleagues with his pro bono work. He helped the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative create its public-private structure and has been a mentor to young associates at his firm as part of Freeborn & Peters' formal mentoring program.

"Brian's strong reputation as a skilled and strategic attorney gives him credibility to guide younger attorneys," said Ami Gandhi, a former Freeborn & Peters colleague and current executive director of the South Asian American Policy & Research Institute. "(Brian) has also been supportive even after I left the law firm and pursued a career in public interest law."

With substantial background in tax and business issues, Mr. Smith advises clients with respect to joint ventures, fund formation, private equity and mergers & acquisitions transactions. In addition, he regularly acts as outside general counsel for a variety of entrepreneurial businesses, including technology companies. He has acted as counsel to private equity funds and other investor groups in connection with their joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures in industries including food, healthcare, manufacturing, technology, restaurant chains, business services, real estate, chemicals, transportation, branded consumer products, hospitality and

publishing. Also a certified public accountant, Mr. Smith frequently advises clients on the tax, financial and management control issues involved in structuring and negotiating real estate joint venture transactions.

Mr. Smith also frequently writes and speaks on matters relating to business and tax issues faced by joint venture parties. Previously, he was an adjunct professor at DePaul University and served as an officer of the Federal Taxation Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association.

In addition, Mr. Smith is active on social issues and civil rights causes. He supported the U.S. Senate candidacy of Jacob J. Meister in 2010 as well as Mr. Meister's mission to advance the individual rights of gay citizens in Illinois.

Previously, Mr. Smith was with a large Midwestern law firm and, before entering private practice, he was an attorney with the Office of Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service, where he tried cases on behalf of the federal government in the U.S. Tax Court. He earned his J.D. from Indiana University Mauer School of Law and a B.S. from Indiana University – Kelley School of Business.

About Freeborn & Peters LLP: Freeborn & Peters LLP is a full-service Midwestern law firm with national and global capabilities headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Freeborn & Peters is always looking ahead and seeking to find better ways to serve its clients. It takes a proactive approach to ensure its clients are more informed, prepared and able to achieve greater success – not just now, but also in the future.

While the firm serves clients across a very broad range of sectors, it has also pioneered an interdisciplinary approach that serves the specific needs of targeted industries, including food, transportation, insurance and reinsurance, and real estate.

Freeborn & Peters is a firm that genuinely lives up to its core values of integrity, caring, effectiveness, teamwork, and commitment, and embodies them through high standards of client service and responsive action. Its lawyers build close and lasting relationships with clients and are driven to help them achieve their legal and business objectives.

For more information, please visit <http://www.freebornpeters.com>.