

Press Release

Shelly DeRousse Elected as President of the Women's Bar Foundation of Illinois

CHICAGO – Feb. 4, 2016 – [Freeborn & Peters LLP](#) is pleased to announce the election of Partner Shelly A. DeRousse as president of the Women's Bar Foundation of Illinois. Ms. DeRousse is Co-Leader of the Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice Group at the firm.

"Shelly is a natural-born leader, which shows in her work at Freeborn and within the greater legal community," said [Cynthia A. Bergmann](#), Chair of the firm's Executive Committee. "We are proud of her new appointment and know that she will do an excellent job leading the organization."

The Women's Bar Foundation was established in 1966 to provide scholarships, awards and other financial aid for the study of law in accredited law schools in the State of Illinois. Since 1966, the Women's Bar Foundation has awarded over 280 scholarships totaling more than \$1.1 million.

Prior to being elected as president, Ms. DeRousse was vice president of fundraising for the Women's Bar Foundation and co-chair of the organization's Annual Scholarship and annual Rise up and Reach Back Luncheons. She is also a member the Women's Bar Association of Illinois, American Bankruptcy Institute, Turnaround Management Association, Chicago Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Professional Fees committees, International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, and Professional Women's Club of Chicago.

ABOUT SHELLY A. DEROUSSE

[Shelly A. DeRousse](#) is Co-Leader of the Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice Group at Freeborn & Peters LLP. Ms. DeRousse has extensive experience in the areas of bankruptcy, restructuring, litigation and asset sales. She is known amongst banks and other financial institutions as a leading attorney for lenders in bankruptcy cases, out-of-court workouts of borrowers' loans and assignments for the benefit of creditors. Ms. DeRousse also has represented as lead counsel official creditors' committees throughout the country. Additionally, she regularly represents companies and high-earning individuals in their bankruptcies or workout negotiations with their lenders and other creditors.

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION

[The Women's Bar Foundation](#) was established in 1966 for the purpose of providing "scholarships, awards or other financial aid for the study of law in accredited law schools in the State of Illinois to deserving and qualified women." The Foundation was incorporated in 1968 as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation and has been granted exemption from federal income taxes under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The first scholarship was awarded in 1966 in the name of Judge Mary Bartelme in the amount of \$300. Since that time, the Foundation has awarded over 280 scholarships totaling more than \$1.1 million. In 2003, the Foundation established and awarded a permanent annual scholarship in the name of Esther Rothstein, a founding member of the Foundation and its president for almost 21 years. In 2002, the Foundation instituted an annual public interest scholarship, and in 2004, the Foundation established a permanent annual scholarship in the name of Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow, a long-time supporter of the Foundation and the first woman chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.

The funds for Foundation scholarships are raised through individual donations, endowments, bequests and Foundation events. Through the years, scholarships have been provided by donations from former scholarship winners and by donations from other supporters. The foundation honors distinguished members and donors by awarding scholarships in their names. To ensure the viability of the Foundation, supporters are encouraged to consider including the Women's Bar Foundation in their estate plans.

[ABOUT FREEBORN & PETERS](#)

[Freeborn & Peters LLP](#) is a full-service law firm, headquartered in Chicago, with international capabilities. Freeborn 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 broad range of sectors, it has also pioneered an interdisciplinary approach that serves the specific needs of targeted industries, including food, transportation, and insurance and reinsurance.

Recognized throughout the United States, [Freeborn's Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice Group](#) is known for its aggressive, cutting-edge solutions. By consistently looking to exceed clients' expectations, the Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice Group has earned the reputation as one of the premier bankruptcy and restructuring practices in the country, having been recognized by groups such as Chambers & Partners and the Turnaround Management Association with its prestigious Large Transaction of the Year award.

Freeborn 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 www.freeborn.com.