

Press Release

Seventeen Freeborn Partners named 2019 'Best Lawyers'

CHICAGO – Aug. 15, 2018 – [Freeborn & Peters LLP](#) is pleased to announce that *The Best Lawyers in America*® has listed 17 firm Partners in its 2019 edition. Best Lawyers also named two of the firm's attorneys as "Lawyers of the Year." In each metropolitan area, only a single attorney in each legal practice area is designated as the "Lawyer of the Year."

"We are tremendously proud of our partners who have been recognized in the 2019 edition of the prestigious *Best Lawyers* guide," said Freeborn Co-Managing Partner [Michael J. Kelly](#). "These accomplished attorneys have earned high praise for their skills, knowledge and service to our clients."

The 2019 edition marks the 25th year for *Best Lawyers*, which is one of the oldest and most respected attorney referral publications. Attorneys are selected through extensive surveys of leading lawyers who assess the legal abilities of their peers. Lawyers are not permitted to pay a fee to participate or be recognized. The 2019 edition is based on more than 7.8 million evaluations and recognizes over 60,000 attorneys in 145 practice areas.

The Freeborn attorneys in the firm's Chicago office who were named 2019 *Best Lawyers* are:

[Andrew L. Goldstein](#) was named Chicago Copyright Law "Lawyer of the Year." He has received this designation three times in the past five years. He also is listed for Entertainment Law – Motion Pictures and Television. Mr. Goldstein is a member of the Corporate Practice Group and Emerging Technologies Industry Team. He has more than 30 years of experience counseling clients in the areas of intellectual property and information technology law. He has extensive experience in intellectual property law, including trademark, trade dress and copyright law; internet, website, cloud computing, technology, outsourcing and computer law in general; advertising, marketing and promotion law; and entertainment law, including video production, theater and dance-related matters.

[Roger H. Bickel](#) is listed for Government Relations Practice. Mr. Bickel is Chairman of the firm's Government and Regulatory Law Practice Group. He concentrates his practice in the areas of corporate government relations, lobbying, regulatory compliance counsel, procurement advocacy, and litigation. He has more than two decades of experience in representing a wide array of clients – from global Fortune 500s to privately held companies in complex legislative and regulatory law matters as well as commercial litigation.

[Philip L. Comella](#) is listed for Environmental Law. Mr. Comella is a member of the Litigation Practice Group and Co-Leader of the Environmental and Energy Practice Group. He has more than three decades of experience in a practice that spans regulatory counseling and environmental-based litigation. His practice has a particular focus on the solid and hazardous waste industry, which includes counseling owners and operators of landfills, treatment facilities, recycling operations, and waste generators on compliance and permitting matters arising under the environmental laws.

[Kenneth M. Crane](#) is listed for Venture Capital Law. Mr. Crane is a member of the Corporate Practice Group and Emerging Technologies Industry Team. He represents private equity, venture capital and family office-backed companies, focusing on acquisition and sale transactions. He works with entrepreneurs and companies from inception through closing of realization transactions. He also frequently represents the portfolio companies of his private equity, emerging growth and other clients in a wide range of transactions and legal matters.

[Jeffery M. Cross](#) is listed for Antitrust Law. Mr. Cross is a member of the Litigation Practice Group and the Antitrust and Complex Litigation Team. He has more than 43 years of trial experience representing a variety of corporations and businesses on antitrust, securities fraud, contract, real estate, environmental regulations, libel and slander, false advertising, commercial code, and trade regulation issues. He also has experience in distribution and franchise law as well as mergers and acquisitions.

[Mark R. Goodman](#) is listed for Insurance Law. Mr. Goodman is a member of the Corporate Practice Group. He has more than three decades of experience advising the insurance industry on corporate, regulatory and transactional matters. He has represented a wide range of clients – including insurance holding companies, insurers, producers, agents and brokers, and managing general agents – in complex, high-profile matters. He also advises non-traditional sellers of insurance on insurance programs.

[David C. Gustman](#) is listed for Antitrust Law, Commercial Litigation, and Litigation – Antitrust. Mr. Gustman is Head of the Litigation Practice Group, Co-Leader of the Antitrust and Trade Regulation Group, and a member and former Chairman of the Executive Committee. He focuses his practice on complex business litigation cases involving antitrust, accounting, banking, bankruptcy, construction, dealership, finance, insurance coverage and broker disputes, mining, real estate, and securities.

[James F. Hendricks, Jr.](#) is listed for Employment Law – Management, and Labor Law – Management. Mr. Hendricks is a member of the Litigation Practice Group. He represents a variety of employers in union campaigns, National Labor Relations Board charges, collective bargaining, discrimination and human resource issues. His clients work in diverse industries, including automotive, construction, hospitality, manufacturing and health care.

[Steven D. Pearson](#) is listed for Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law. Mr. Pearson is a member of the Litigation Practice Group and Insurance and Reinsurance Industry Team. He concentrates his litigation practice in the areas of insurance non-compete, insurance coverage, bad faith, reinsurance, non-medical professional liability defense, and complex general commercial matters. He also regularly litigates large scale attorney fee disputes.

[Christopher J. Townsend](#) is listed for Energy Law. Mr. Townsend is Co-Leader of the Environment and Energy Practice Group and a member of the Litigation Practice Group. He has more than two decades of experience representing forward-thinking energy market participants, both individually and in coalitions, as they develop, defend and improve the structures for effective and efficient competition in the energy markets. He regularly provides energy advice to entities other than the local utilities, including large industrial, institutional and commercial energy users; municipalities; and other governmental entities. He also assists alternative electricity and natural gas suppliers in developing the structures for energy markets. In addition, he represents energy project developers on complicated and cutting-edge projects and assists other large-scale energy industry participants.

[Eileen B. Trost](#) is listed for Litigation – Trusts and Estates, and Trusts & Estates. Ms. Trost is a member of the Corporate Practice Group. She focuses her practice in estate planning, trust and estate administration, and related income tax issues. She has extensive experience in all aspects of estate, gift, generation-skipping and income tax planning for trusts and estates. Of particular note is her experience in advising corporate fiduciaries and high-net worth clients.

[Alexander S. Vesselinovitch](#) is listed for Commercial Litigation, and Criminal Defense: White Collar. Mr. Vesselinovitch is member of the Litigation Practice Group. He concentrates his practice on civil and criminal litigation involving breach of contract, anti-fraud, intellectual property and antitrust matters. He also handles domestic and international commercial arbitrations involving various contractual and licensing disputes.

The Freeborn attorneys in the firm's Richmond, Va., office who were named 2019 *Best Lawyers* are:

[Theodore I. Brenner](#) was named Richmond, Va., Insurance Law "Lawyer of the Year." Mr. Brenner is a member of the Litigation Practice Group. He has served as trial and appellate counsel in hundreds of civil matters in state and federal courts over his 39-year career. His practice areas of focus include insurance coverage disputes, litigation of claims against insurers, brokers and agents, bad faith litigation, and fraud investigations.

[Ronald S. Evans](#) is listed for Family Law. Mr. Evans is a member of the Family and Personal Law Practice Group. He has engaged in defense of industries accused of environmental crimes and of persons accused of criminal matters. His experience includes wrongful death, product liability and personal injury cases, as well as general civil litigation. He currently focuses his litigation practice on complex family law matters including valuation of closely held corporations and professional practices for purposes of Equitable Distribution, ERISA and Qualified Domestic Relations Orders, custody, visitation and support of children, and support of spouses.

In the firm's Springfield, Ill., office, the following attorney was named a 2019 *Best Lawyers*:

[John E. Stevens](#) is listed for Government Relations Practice. Mr. Stevens is a member of the Government and Regulatory Law Practice Group. He has more than 35 years of experience in assisting clients with legislative, regulatory, government procurement and public employee collective bargaining issues. He also assists corporate and not-for-profit clients with their licensing, franchising and economic development issues. He previously served as general counsel to the Illinois attorney general and two Illinois comptrollers.

The Freeborn attorneys in the firm's Tampa, Fla., office who were named 2019 *Best Lawyers* are:

[Jessica Kirkwood Alley](#) is listed for Commercial Litigation. Ms. Alley is a member of the Litigation Practice Group and Insurance/Reinsurance Industry Team. She has almost two decades of experience representing attorneys, brokers, agents, and other professionals throughout the state in professional malpractice cases. Ms. Alley also excels at large complex litigation. She also has extensive experience defending companies from high stakes cases *qui tam* cases brought under the False Claims Act. In the area of insurance coverage, Ms. Alley counsels insurers in construing liability insurance policies and litigates declaratory judgment actions on behalf of domestic and foreign insurers throughout the country.

[Lawrence P. Ingram](#) is listed for Commercial Litigation. Mr. Ingram is Head of the Tampa office, as well as a member of the Litigation Practice Group and Insurance/Reinsurance Industry Team. He concentrates his trial practice in professional liability defense, third-party insurance coverage, qui tam and healthcare fraud, and professional business disputes involving trade secrets and restrictive covenants. In the area of professional liability, his practice focuses on the litigation and trial defense of professional malpractice claims against insurance agents and attorneys.

ABOUT FREEBORN & PETERS

Freeborn & Peters LLP is a full-service law firm, headquartered in Chicago, with international capabilities and offices in New York City; Richmond, Va.; Springfield, Ill.; and Tampa, Fla. 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 very broad range of sectors, it has also pioneered an interdisciplinary approach that serves the specific needs of targeted industries.

Freeborn is a firm that genuinely lives up to its core values of integrity, effectiveness, teamwork, caring 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.

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