

## Press Release

### **Freeborn Partner John Shapiro Speaks at National Diversity and Leadership Conference**

**CHICAGO – April 8, 2019** – [Freeborn & Peters LLP](#) is pleased to announce that Partner [John T. Shapiro](#), a member of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and chair of Freeborn's Pro Bono Committee, is a speaker at this week's Diversity and Leadership Conference presented by the National Diversity Council (NDC).

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual event, taking place April 8-12 in Dallas, also features keynote speakers President Barack Obama, actress America Ferrera, and former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Mr. Shapiro's presentation on April 12, "Essential Negotiation Skills," will address the crucial importance of negotiation for leaders of organizations, as well as how to bolster one's negotiation skills. The overall conference is designed to help organizations explore tools and resources necessary to build diverse workforces and remain competitive on the global stage. The mission of the NDC is to bring together the private, public and non-profit sectors to discuss the many dimensions and benefits of a multicultural environment.

As part of his ongoing diversity leadership role with Freeborn and in the community, Mr. Shapiro also spoke in March at the Illinois Women's Conference, an empowerment conference held in Chicago that addressed social, cultural, economic and political challenges that women experience. Mr. Shapiro's session was titled "Influence Change: Transforming Workplace Culture." In 2017, the Illinois Diversity Council bestowed on Mr. Shapiro its Leadership Excellence in the Law Award.

A member of Freeborn's Complex Litigation Practice Group, Mr. Shapiro litigates an array of business disputes and counsels clients on litigation, corporate, employment, supply chain, management, and other issues. In addition, as Leader of Freeborn's Food Industry Team, Mr. Shapiro provides business and legal counseling to food clients in areas that include food safety, regulatory compliance, and supply chain management and litigation.

Mr. Shapiro also serves as General Counsel of Inspiration Corporation, a Chicago-based non-profit that assists people affected by poverty. Among its other programs and services, Inspiration Corporation's Inspiration Kitchens is a culinary and restaurant skills training program that helps provide participants with the tools they need to secure and retain jobs in the food service industry.

In addition, Mr. Shapiro serves on the Board of Chicagoland Food and Beverage Network, an organization focused on creating a collaborative working environment for food and beverage manufacturers and using that platform to drive economic growth and workforce development in Chicago area communities in need. As part of his work with Chicagoland Food, John is helping to design

and to implement a technical curriculum and career pathways program for workers in the food and beverage manufacturing sector.

#### **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.

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