

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Robinson+Cole Welcomes 10 New Lawyers

*Our Corporate, Environmental + Utilities, Finance, Insurance + Reinsurance, Labor + Employment, Litigation, Real Estate + Development, Nonprofit Organizations, and Trusts + Estates Groups grow with new talent*

HARTFORD, CT (October 8, 2015) – Robinson+Cole welcomes 10 new lawyers who joined the firm over the course of the summer, in offices in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Florida. The lawyers bring additional breadth to a variety of our practices including business transactions, environmental and utilities, finance, insurance, labor and employment, litigation, real estate, nonprofit organizations, and trusts and estates. Additionally, the firm is pleased to welcome two recent law school graduates.

### Hartford

[Andrew A. DePeau](#) (Litigation, Associate) – Mr. DePeau focuses on many aspects of business litigation, including actions involving allegations of breach of contract and unfair and deceptive trade practices and other business torts. Before entering private practice, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable F. Herbert Gruendel of the Connecticut Appellate Court. He earned his J.D., with high honors, from the University of Connecticut School of Law, his M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Connecticut School of Business, and his B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut. He is admitted to practice law in Connecticut.

[Scott N. Siedor](#) (Trusts + Estates, Associate) – Mr. Siedor focuses in the areas of estate and trust planning and probate administration. Prior to joining Robinson+Cole, Mr. Siedor was a Legislative Attorney with the Legislative Commissioners' Office of the Connecticut General Assembly and also served as a legal intern in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut and as a clerk in the Connecticut Superior Court in Hartford. He earned his J.D., with honors, from the University of Connecticut School of Law and his B.A., magna cum laude, in Economics and Environmental Science from Connecticut College. He is admitted to practice law in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

[Jenna L. Veronneau](#) (Insurance + Reinsurance, Associate) – Ms. Veronneau focuses her practice on representation of commercial insurers in complex coverage matters. Prior to joining Robinson+Cole, Ms. Veronneau served as law clerk to the Honorable Bethany J. Alvord of the Connecticut Appellate Court. She earned her J.D., with high honors, from the University of Connecticut School of Law, and her B.A. in History, summa cum laude, and B.S. in Criminal Justice, summa cum laude, from the University of New Haven. She is admitted to practice law in Connecticut.

[Rachel V. Kushel](#) (Labor, Employment, Benefits + Immigration, Counsel) - Ms. Kushel counsels clients on all aspects of employment law and workplace human resource issues, including equal employment matters, investigations and hiring, discipline, termination, discrimination, leave and harassment issues. She litigates matters from inception to trial and through appeal in federal and state courts. She has argued successfully on behalf of clients before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, District Court of Connecticut, and Connecticut state trial and appellate courts. She is admitted to practice law in Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

## **New York**

[Philippe J. Gerschel](#) (Real Estate + Development, Associate) – Mr. Gerschel advises clients on a variety of real estate matters, including zoning, landlord/tenant, contract, and leasing issues, that involve both transactional and litigation work. Mr. Gerschel routinely drafts real estate documents, including leases and sale agreements, and analyzes zoning records and construction bids to ensure compliance with governmental regulations. He also has experience litigating matters involving mortgage-backed securities, securities fraud, and other financial crimes. He earned his J.D. from New York Law School and his B.A., cum laude, from The George Washington University. He is admitted to practice law in New York.

[Crystal Kay](#) (Real Estate + Development, Associate) – Ms. Kay represents institutional lenders in secured, unsecured, and affordable housing financing involving commercial and multifamily real estate transactions. She has experience working on a variety of real estate transactions, such as mortgage loan originations, acquisitions and dispositions, leasing, loan acquisitions, and servicing matters including loans for sale in the secondary mortgage market to Fannie Mae. She earned her J.D. from Rutgers University and her B.A. from Wesleyan University. She is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey.

[Carly Leinheiser](#) (Nonprofit Organizations, Associate) – Ms. Leinheiser counsels public charities and private foundations on a variety of matters. She regularly advises clients on corporate formation and governance, tax-exempt compliance, business transactions, charitable solicitation and cause marketing, strategies regarding unrelated business income tax, joint ventures, lobbying and political activity, and the proper management of endowment funds. She earned her J.D. from New York University School of Law and her B.A., magna cum laude, from Washington University in St. Louis. She is admitted to practice law in New York.

## **Boston**

[Dena D. Fazio](#) (Finance, Associate) – Ms. Fazio's practice focuses on financing and real estate matters, including commercial real estate lending, construction lending, loan participations, loan workouts, foreclosures, commercial leasing, and commercial real estate acquisitions and dispositions. Before joining Robinson+Cole, Ms. Fazio most recently was an assistant counsel for a federally chartered financial institution headquartered in Boston. She is also a U.S. Green Building Council, LEED® Accredited Professional and is a certified mediator. She earned her J.D., cum laude, from Boston University School of Law and her B.S. from the University of New Hampshire. She is admitted to practice law in Massachusetts.

[Michelle M. Labbe](#) (Finance, Associate) – Ms. Labbe focuses her practice on financing and commercial real estate matters. She regularly represents lenders and individuals in commercial real estate transactions and financing, including commercial and construction lending, commercial acquisitions, and commercial leasing. Before joining Robinson+Cole, Ms. Labbe was most recently with Fletcher Tilton PC. She earned her J.D., cum laude, from Suffolk University Law School and her B.A., magna cum laude, from Clark University. She is admitted to practice law in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

## **Miami**

[Andrew L. Gutierrez](#) (Insurance + Reinsurance, Associate) – Mr. Gutierrez handles first-party defense for insurers, including coverage opinions, motion and discovery practice, settlement negotiations, and mediation and trial preparation. He also has experience with third-party liability and appellate work. Before joining Robinson+Cole, Mr. Gutierrez was most recently with Stone, Glass & Connolly, LLP. He earned his J.D. cum laude, from Florida State University College of Law and his B.S., cum laude, from Florida State University. He is admitted to practice law in Florida.

## **Additional New Talent**

We are also pleased to welcome recent law school graduates Scott M. Baird and Emily Deans to our Hartford office. Their admissions to the Connecticut Bar are pending. Mr. Baird joins our Business Transactions Group. He earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his B.A. from Brigham Young University. Ms. Deans joins our Environmental + Utilities Group. She earned her J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law and her B.A. from Williams College.

## **More about Robinson+Cole**

Robinson+Cole is a service mark of Robinson & Cole LLP, an Am Law 200 firm with 200 lawyers in nine offices serving regional, national, and international clients, from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. Since 1845, Robinson & Cole LLP has grown to meet the changing needs of clients. The firm represents investors, corporate, governmental, and nonprofit entities, as well as individual clients, in a wide range of matters, including corporate; business and insurance litigation; tax and tax-exempt; finance; public finance; land use, environmental and utilities, and real estate; health law; labor, employment, and benefits; intellectual property and technology; data privacy and security; and government relations. For more information, please visit [www.rc.com](http://www.rc.com).

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