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**American Bar Association Recognizes Sorell Negro with
Jefferson B. Fordham Society's Up & Comers Award**

HARTFORD, CT (August 27, 2013) – The American Bar Association (ABA) honored Robinson & Cole land use lawyer [Sorell E. Negro](#) with the Jefferson B. Fordham Society's national Up & Comers Award. Ms. Negro was presented the award at the ABA's Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, on August 9, 2013.

"Sorell is hard working, highly motivated, and intelligent, and she has great interpersonal skills, good judgment, and an ever cheerful mood," said Dwight H. Merriam, a land use partner at Robinson & Cole, in his nomination of Ms. Negro. "She is a rising star and has already accomplished an impressive amount both in her legal practice and in her commitments to the legal profession and legal scholarship."

Jefferson B. Fordham became the first chair of the ABA's Section of State and Local Government Law in 1949, and in his years of service, the section became a distinguished national resource for the advancement of state and local government law practice. In 1998, the section established four awards in his name to honor the accomplishments of practitioners and institutions active in the varied areas of practice associated with state and local government law. The Up & Comers Award is presented to a lawyer 36 years of age or younger who, through his or her efforts and accomplishments, shows great promise to continue these contributions for future achievements.

Ms. Negro focuses her practice on land use, environmental, and real estate law and related litigation. She provides guidance to clients on a variety of land use issues, including zoning, permitting and development, and the impacts of proposed land use regulations and recently enacted legislation. Her litigation experience spans federal and state court and includes land use appeals, compliance with wetlands statutes, complex real property disputes, public health code enforcement, and environmental contamination claims, including liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. She is active in a number of professional associations, including the American Planning Association; the Connecticut Bar Association, where she is a law school liaison for its Environmental Law Section; and the ABA. She was one of six young lawyers selected nationally to be a Fellow of the ABA's Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law from 2012 to 2014. In addition, she is the vice chair of the website for the ABA's Water Resources Committee and the liaison between the ABA's Section of State and Local Government Law and the Young Lawyers Division. She has also written and presented on timely and complex issues related to land use, energy, and natural resources, including electric vehicle charging stations, the regulation of natural gas development, planning for impacts from shale development, land banking, water resources management, and land use implications from rising sea levels. She is currently co-editing a book on urban agriculture for the ABA.

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Robinson & Cole is an Am Law 200 firm with more than 200 lawyers in nine offices serving regional, national, and international clients, from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. Since 1845, Robinson & Cole has expanded to meet the changing needs of clients. The firm represents 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; and government relations. For more information, please visit www.rc.com.

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