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Cole Schotz Lands Five Practices and Nine Attorneys in *Chambers USA* Guide

Firm recognized in top tier for New Jersey bankruptcy practice

HACKENSACK, N.J., June 27, 2011 – The law firm of Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, P.A. is pleased to announce that five of its practices are ranked among the nation’s best in the 2011 edition of *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business*. In addition, nine Cole Schotz attorneys are recommended as leading practitioners in their respective fields. The firm’s New Jersey Bankruptcy and Corporate Restructuring Practice earned the directory’s highest ranking. The practice’s co-chairs, Michael D. Sirota, who is also the firm’s co-managing shareholder, and Norman L. Pernick are recognized with a top-tier honor individually. *Chambers USA*, known for its independent and objective research process as a sought-after guide by business leaders selecting legal counsel, is available at www.chambersandpartners.com.

Cole Schotz is recognized in New Jersey for Bankruptcy/Restructuring, Labor and Employment, General Commercial Litigation and Real Estate. In Delaware, the firm is recognized for Bankruptcy/Restructuring law.

In addition, nine of the firm’s attorneys are honored as leaders in their fields in New Jersey, including Hackensack-based members (partners):

Michael D. Sirota (Bankruptcy/Restructuring)

Mr. Sirota earns a top spot for the fourth consecutive year. *Chambers* notes, “Michael Sirota has a truly outstanding reputation for debtor work. Research confirms that he is an ‘incredible force who is rightly the first on the list for any complex issues’ and will ‘only ever act in the very best interests of his clients.’”

Richard W. Abramson (Real Estate)

Chambers says, “Sources value Richard Abramson’s ‘meaningful, knowledgeable guidance,’ adding that his ‘refined business acumen means we feel comfortable in his hands.’ He oversees the work of the practice group and covers a range of transactional activity.”

Gerald H. Gline (Bankruptcy/Restructuring)

According to *Chambers*, “‘Bright and capable,’ Gerald Gline stands apart due to the pragmatic advice that has made him a favorite among clients.”

Steven R. Klein (General Commercial Litigation)

Chambers notes, “Steven Klein can be brought in to deal with even the most difficult of cases, sources confirm, and he boasts a wide array of civil litigation experience. He is also a successful arbitrator and appellate attorney.”

Stuart Komrower (Bankruptcy/Restructuring)

Chambers notes, “Stuart Komrower earns a place in the rankings this year as a result of his intelligent reputation and property-related bankruptcy advice. He is an attorney who ‘won’t keep the meter running just for the sake of it’ when acting for clients.”

Leo V. Leyva (General Commercial Litigation)

According to *Chambers*, “Leo Leyva is identified as one of the group’s most seasoned corporate litigation attorneys.”

Michael S. Meisel (General Commercial Litigation)

According to *Chambers*, “Michael Meisel earns the commendation of interviewees for his ‘brilliant courtroom advocacy.’”

The following members (partners) in Cole Schotz’s Wilmington, Del. office are recognized:

Norman L. Pernick (Bankruptcy/Restructuring)

According to *Chambers*, “Group chair Norman Pernick’s capability in large bankruptcy proceedings is underscored by his role in matters such as the Tribune Company work mentioned above. He is praised for his ‘down-to-earth’ character, which he combines with ‘a breathtakingly effective ability to bring people together and get a deal done.’”

J. Kate Stickles (Bankruptcy/Restructuring)

Ms. Stickles earns a spot as an “Up and Comer” for a second consecutive year. The publication notes that, “Sources praise her client skills and ability to work seamlessly with in-house counsel.”

The firm’s honored practice areas include:

Bankruptcy/Restructuring (New Jersey)

According to *Chambers*, “Feedback confirms it as a sound choice for Chapter 11 restructurings and transactional operations, as well as for any related litigation. It recently achieved a favorable settlement for Hartz Mountain Industries over an action to dismiss a debtor’s application for bankruptcy protection.”

Real Estate (New Jersey)

According to *Chambers*, “Much of this group’s work lies in representing real estate investment funds across an assortment of joint ventures, acquisitions of distressed real estate and loan restructurings. Interviewees acknowledge the lawyers for their understanding of the retail and residential markets, as well as their expertise in financing, developing and leasing projects across the regional market. A number of recent highlights exemplify the group’s work in the purchase of real estate secured loans, including the acquisition of a mortgage backed by a New York City office block.”

General Commercial Litigation (New Jersey)

According to *Chambers*, “This firm earns its position in the rankings thanks to an excellent base of clients and its nurturing of an impressive level of talent. It attracts a high level of recognition for its work on bankruptcy litigation, yet it also maintains an understanding of general business disputes, including liability, tax and insurance claims. Its footprint straddles the tri-state area and it is able to take on matters before the state and federal courts.”

Labor and Employment (New Jersey)

According to *Chambers*, “This team is awarded a position in the rankings having attracted a number of favorable reviews. In addition to guiding clients over regulatory and compliance hurdles relating to OSHA, contractual and employee reorganizing issues, the group can be also be deployed to deal with any employment litigation that might arise. Practitioners are said to be adept at dealing with workforce training exercises and at helping firms avoid litigation.”

Bankruptcy/Restructuring law (Delaware)

According to *Chambers*, “This debtor-focused team has established a highly regarded practice. It is considered a go-to for large bankruptcy mandates requiring Delaware co-counsel, such as in its advice to Tribune Company as bankruptcy counsel in a multibillion-dollar Chapter 11 and reorganization plan. The team is also often sought as conflicts counsel.”

About Chambers

Since 2003, Chambers and Partners, based in London, has researched the U.S. legal profession, identifying the leading lawyers and law firms through interviews with thousands of lawyers and their clients. The eighth annual *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business* is based on in-depth interviews with leading private practice attorneys and key in-house counsel. For more information, visit www.chambersandpartners.com.

About Cole Schotz

Cole Schotz serves clients throughout the U.S. with offices in New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland and Texas. The firm represents closely held businesses and individuals as well as Fortune 500 companies. Founded in 1928, the firm has grown to 120 attorneys who work in eight primary areas of practice: Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring; Litigation; Real Estate; Tax, Trusts & Estates; Corporate, Finance & Business Transactions; Employment; Environmental; and Construction Services. www.coleschotz.com

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