Nixon Peabody welcomes seven counsel across departments

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Boston, MA. Nixon Peabody LLP is pleased to highlight the recent additions of seven lateral counsel across multiple regions and practice areas.

"Our goal is to directly align our attorneys' experience with the complex challenges our clients face, and we view the lateral market through that lens," said **Stacie B. Collier**, Nixon Peabody's chief talent officer. "The range of industries and locations among this group of attorneys strengthens the positive impact we create for clients and makes us stronger as a firm."

The attorneys bring experience across practice areas, including **Affordable Housing** & **Real Estate**, **Healthcare**, **Intellectual Property**, **M&A and Corporate Transactions**, **Corporate Trust**, and **Construction & Real Estate Litigation**. They have joined Nixon Peabody's offices in **Boston**, **Chicago**, **New York City**, and **San Francisco**.

Business & Finance Department

Jeremy A. Avila, Healthcare, San Francisco

Jeremy is a trial lawyer, former prosecutor, and former state-level chief counsel whose practice sits at the intersection of regulatory compliance, complex litigation and dispute resolution, and government investigations and enforcement actions. He brings 12 years of California government experience, including his appointment by Governor Gavin Newsom as chief counsel for the California Department of Aging, where he built and led an in-house legal team. Jeremy represents and advises healthcare and life sciences clients facing complex litigation and regulatory hurdles and investigations, audits, and enforcement actions by the US federal government, the California Department of Justice, the California Department of Managed Health Care, and the California Department of Health Care Services. Jeremy serves

on the board of directors of the California Society for Healthcare Attorneys and co-chairs its Diversity Committee.

James Chicoski, Corporate, Boston

James has more than 20 years of experience advising clients on complex business transactions, corporate governance, and project development, including more than a decade serving as in-house counsel at a global energy infrastructure developer and operator. He represents regulated and unregulated energy clients in joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, dispositions, equity investments, project development, and corporate governance matters. His practice spans renewable energy, energy storage, conventional generation, and electric transmission, as well as liquefied natural gas and natural gas pipeline infrastructure. James draws on his in-house experience to provide practical, business-focused guidance informed by clients' operational priorities, risk tolerance, and budget constraints.

Richard Goulding, Global Finance, Boston

A member of Nixon Peabody's **Corporate Trust**, **Business Aviation Transactions**, and **Entertainment & Sports** teams, Rick represents major financial institutions and trust companies in financing and restructuring transactions, including corporate and municipal debt issuances, domestic and cross-border project financings, and asset-backed securitizations. In addition to advising clients serving in trustee, agency, and fiduciary roles across these transactions, he counsels lenders, owners, operators, and family offices through full aircraft lifecycle matters. He also advises athletes, teams, ownership groups, and agencies on a wide range of legal matters, including investments, endorsements, and entity formation for name, image, and likeness (NIL) purposes. Rick is a member of the Sports Lawyers Association, National Aircraft Finance Association, and National Business Aviation Association.

Litigation Department

Ashley LaValley, Intellectual Property, Chicago

Ashley represents clients in complex patent, trademark, and trade secret disputes, with a particular focus on patent infringement litigation in federal district courts. She handles post-grant proceedings before the US Patent and Trademark Office's Patent Trial and Appeal Board and related appeals before the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Ashley represents clients across technologies and industries, including network security, wireless technologies, automotive systems, medical devices, consumer products, and athletic equipment. She guides clients through all stages of litigation, from pre-filing investigations and claim construction through expert discovery, trial, and appeals, and she has served as lead appellate counsel. Ashley also advises patent owners on enforcement, licensing, portfolio valuation, and monetization strategies.

Robert C. Keitamo, Construction & Real Estate Litigation, San Francisco

Rob represents landowners, businesses, investors, and developers in real estate disputes involving contracts, leases, titles, boundaries, common interest developments, easements, encroachments, and nondisclosure. His experience includes contract enforcement, landlord-tenant disputes, quiet title litigation, and commercial and residential lease drafting and review. He has represented property owners and large real estate investment trusts in commercial and residential unlawful detainer matters, including settlement conferences and bench trials. Rob develops litigation strategies aimed at achieving clients' objectives while minimizing risk, and he advises on opportunities for early dispute resolution.

Project Finance, Infrastructure & Real Estate Department

Thomas Wu, Affordable Housing & Real Estate, New York City

Thomas advises real estate developers, owners, and borrowers through all aspects of affordable housing financing transactions, including rental and homeownership projects, as well as senior and supportive housing. He structures and documents complex affordable housing transactions involving tax-exempt bonds, government subsidies, and other public sources of financing. Thomas brings experience from Asian Americans for Equality, the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and the New York State Housing Finance Agency. He draws on his experience with affordable housing subsidy programs to guide clients through financing, closing, and long-term regulatory compliance, working closely with private lenders, governmental agencies, developers, and other transaction participants to bring projects successfully to fruition.

Kelly Maharaj, Affordable Housing & Real Estate, New York City

A member of Nixon Peabody's **Cooperatives & Condominiums** team, Kelly focuses on real estate transactional and regulatory matters, including cooperative, condominium, and timeshare development, conversions, governance, and compliance. She previously served as review chief of the New York Attorney General's Real Estate Finance Bureau and brings firsthand insight to clients navigating regulatory matters. Kelly represents developers and sponsors in residential and commercial condominium and cooperative conversions, acquisitions, sales, and leasing. She also advises financial institutions on development lending and regulatory due diligence, counsels high-net-worth individuals on cooperative and condominium apartment transactions, and serves as special counsel to boards on management and regulatory compliance issues.