

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE & FINANCE PRO TO LEAD RSHC BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS GROUP

CHICAGO – Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP (RSHC) welcomes new partner LaVon M. Johns to the firm’s business transactions practice.

Johns is an industry luminary best regarded for having a highly respected practice advising clients in complex commercial real estate and finance transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, financing, leasing, and public/private partnership transactions. She is known for having served as lead real estate counsel to the City of Chicago in the privatization of assets, including Chicago Skyway Toll Bridge and Chicago Parking Garage System. *Illinois Real Estate Journal* has honored her on their list of the state’s “Top Women in Real Estate” every year since 2006. In addition to representing commercial and industrial clients in multimillion-dollar commercial real estate transactions in the United States and abroad, she teaches commercial real estate law at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and is the immediate past president (2022) of the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE).

“We are delighted to have LaVon leading our transactions team,” said RSHC Managing Partner Patricia Brown Holmes. “She is a consummate deal-maker whose business savvy and legal know-how are exactly what our clients need to help them succeed amidst economic uncertainty. And, as someone already engaged in developing the next generation of top-tier legal talent, she’s a perfect fit for our culture.”

RSHC has been recognized for its inclusive culture and deep commitment to pro bono service with awards from *Law360*, the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms, and multiple clients. The firm is ranked by Chambers & Partners as among the nation’s top firms in General Commercial and White Collar Crime & Government Investigations Litigation and was noted by BTI Consulting Group as one of the legal industry’s “Frequently Recommended” firms in 2022, based on survey results of in-house counsel.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to grow and strengthen RSHC’s business transactions group,” Johns said. “Just as the firm is home to a diverse team of elite litigators, we can deliver excellent transactional representation to our clients.”

Beyond traditional transactional work, Johns is well versed in handling governmental incentive-based transactions using vehicles such as tax credits, TIF, LIHTC, and NMTC to achieve her clients’ goals. In addition to representing Fortune 100 companies, governmental agencies, and

entrepreneurs, her practice also includes advising nonprofit and faith-based organizations on issues relating to federal and state law governance and compliance and crisis management issues.

Johns is a graduate of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.

About Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP (RSHC)

Fortune 500 and other market-leading businesses turn to the elite trial teams and C-Suite advisors of Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP to handle their most pressing challenges. RSHC's Business Transactions Group focuses on providing practical solutions and comprehensive transactional legal services in the areas of complex commercial real estate, finance, corporate (including early-stage private equity investment transactions), airport concessions, and supply chain transactions. Our Business Transactions Group lawyers represent Fortune 100 companies, entrepreneurs, developers, governmental agencies, not-for-profits, banks, institutional investors, and funds across the U.S. Noted by the Chambers Diversity & Inclusion Awards as "a true diversity and inclusion pioneer for the profession," the firm draws from its authentic diversity to assemble bespoke teams for each engagement, incorporating multiple perspectives to craft legal strategies, and deliver business insights that create success in both the courtroom and boardroom. RSHC attorneys are united by a culture of excellence that is relentlessly client-focused, dynamically innovative, and passionately committed to winning. Learn more at rshc-law.com

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