

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Former Fortune Global 500 Company VP, Associate GC and Secretary Joins Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila**

Joseph J. O’Hara, Jr., former Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Secretary for a Fortune Global 500 company that is a leading manufacturer of packaging products, has joined the national law firm of Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila (RSHC) as Of Counsel in the Chicago office. He will focus on wide-ranging trial work and emphasize the representation of clients who have been wrongfully convicted and seek justice in the criminal and civil courts.

Joe had global responsibility for the management of asbestos litigation for over ten years. He created and implemented a nationwide strategy to manage a mass tort problem that had literally bankrupted scores of the Fortune Global 500 company’s co-defendants. He was also appointed secretary where he led corporate governance and facilitated the interface between senior management and the Board of Directors. Before 2007, he served as national and regional coordinating counsel for several asbestos defendants, prepared and tried asbestos and non-asbestos cases in many states, and represented plaintiffs in catastrophic medical malpractice cases.

Born and raised on the South Side, Joe is looking forward to returning to Chicago and joining a firm committed to client service, diversity, and pro bono work. Managing Partner Patricia Brown Holmes said, “We are extremely happy to have Joe join us. Besides being a spectacular lawyer and strategist, he is a phenomenal person and friend. He is someone whose company we will enjoy because he is a genuinely nice guy. It will be a delight to have him around.” Ron Safer added, “Joe is a uniquely talented lawyer. He is a strategic thinker who helps the client devise a strategy to reach its goals and then works tirelessly to execute that strategy. He is a natural leader and that rarest of breeds: a humble lawyer.”

Joe earned his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Marquette University.

### **About Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP (RSHC)**

RSHC is a national law firm of litigators, trial lawyers, and transactional attorneys with offices in Chicago, San Francisco, New York, and Ann Arbor. The partnership team features leaders in many practice areas, including antitrust, business transactions, class actions, white collar, product liability, intellectual property, and general litigation. Diversity begins with the names on the door and extends through the partnership and associates ranks. RSHC is home to 75 lawyers, nine of whom are former federal, state, and DOJ attorneys.

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