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Drinker Biddle's Wilmington Office Adds 10 Litigation & Real Estate Lawyers

WILMINGTON, Del. – A group of 10 litigation and real estate lawyers, including five partners, today officially joined the Wilmington office of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. With this addition, Drinker Biddle offers clients significant skill, depth and experience in handling complex business and white collar criminal cases in Delaware's federal, Chancery, Supreme and Superior courts as well as deep local roots in zoning, land use and other real estate matters. The lawyers were previously with WolfBlock LLP.

Kathleen M. Jennings, William J. Rhodunda, Todd C. Schiltz, Joseph C. Schoell and Shawn P. Tucker are joining Drinker Biddle as partners while Charles M. Oberly joins as of counsel to the firm. Jennings and Oberly are experienced litigators with significant backgrounds in white collar criminal defense. Tucker and Rhodunda are both experienced real estate and litigation attorneys. Joining the firm as associates are Jennifer B. Ranji, Chandra J. Rudloff, Karen V. Sullivan and Daniel Turner, Jr.

"The ability to offer our clients first-hand familiarity with Delaware's federal and state courts has been part of our strategy since opening our Wilmington office in 2003," said Drinker Biddle Chairman Alfred W. Putnam, Jr. "The addition of these top-notch lawyers now gives us a significant presence in Delaware, allowing us to act as experienced counsel in the type of litigation prevalent in Delaware." More than 850,000 businesses are incorporated in Delaware, including nearly two-thirds of *Fortune* 500 companies.

The new Drinker Biddle lawyers' public service experience in the state spans an impressive array of positions, including Delaware Attorney General, Delaware Chief Deputy Attorney General, Chief Counsel to the Governor of Delaware, County Attorney for New Castle County (Del.), Land Use General Manager for New Castle County and Chairman of the Delaware Tax Appeals Board. The new group is combining with Drinker Biddle's established restructuring and litigation group in Delaware, which includes William T. Quillen, a former justice of the Delaware Supreme Court, a former chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery and a former judge of the Delaware Superior Court, as well as a former Delaware Secretary of State. The firm now counts more than 15 lawyers in its Wilmington office.

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"We are thrilled to add such an excellent group of people who are so well regarded in the Delaware Bar and who bring the skill sets we were looking for in Delaware," said Andrew C. Kassner, Drinker Biddle's Executive Partner and chair of the Corporate Restructuring Practice Group. "These lawyers' practices have been very successful in Delaware, and we are looking forward to building on that success here at Drinker Biddle. Our clients tell us that there is tremendous value in our ability to serve them in one of the top jurisdictions in the nation for business litigation and bankruptcy, not to mention other areas such as white collar defense, corporate governance, intellectual property and real estate."

Tucker, who will be the new Regional Partner in Charge of the Wilmington office, said that Drinker Biddle was attractive to the group because of its national scope, wide diversity of practice groups and established bankruptcy practice in Delaware. He added that Drinker Biddle's structure and culture offer an opportunity for the group to grow its practices significantly.

"We have enjoyed working with the tremendous lawyers at WolfBlock," said Tucker. "We believe our clients will benefit from Drinker Biddle's national footprint and its large and sophisticated national litigation, bankruptcy, business and real estate practices. The cross-marketing opportunities the firm offers are exciting."

Brief biographies of the new partners follow:

Kathleen M. Jennings – Kathleen's practice is focused on commercial, regulatory and white collar criminal defense litigation, representing clients in a wide variety of industries, including pharmaceutical, medical device, securities and environmental. Before entering private practice, she was Chief Deputy Attorney General and State Prosecutor with the Delaware Attorney General's Office, a position in which she oversaw both civil and criminal litigation matters throughout the state. She is an experienced and skilled trial lawyer in Delaware's federal and state courts, with more than 100 jury and bench trials in both criminal and civil cases. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Kathleen earned her J.D. from Villanova University School of Law. She has a bachelor's degree with distinction from the University of Delaware, graduating with high honors.

William J. Rhodunda – Bill's practice is concentrated on zoning and subdivision law, as well as general real estate and regulatory matters. He also has a strong background in civil and criminal litigation, with more than 60 jury trials, and in government relations matters. Before entering private practice, he held several top government legal positions, including as County Attorney for New Castle County (Del.), as Chief Civil Litigator for the City of Wilmington's City Solicitors Office and as a Delaware Deputy Attorney General. As County Attorney, Bill was extensively involved with the development of New Castle County's new zoning and subdivision code. He earned his law degree from Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law and his bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware.

Todd C. Schiltz – Todd focuses his practice on corporate and commercial litigation, as well as representing debtors and creditors in bankruptcy proceedings. He also handles matters involving boards, directors and stockholders of corporations as well as disputes involving alternate entities in litigation related to governance and fiduciary duties arising under Delaware and federal securities laws. Todd is also Chairman of the Delaware Tax Appeals Board. A frequent author on Delaware law, he earned his J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law. He received his bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, from DePauw University.

Joseph C. Schoell – Joe has handled a broad array of sophisticated business litigation and transactional matters, practicing extensively in Delaware's Chancery Court. He has served as Governor's Counsel to Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, advising the state's chief executive, her

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cabinet and senior agency personnel on myriad legal issues, as well as counseling the Governor and coordinating with the Delaware General Assembly on policy issues. Joe was instrumental in the adoption of legislation that modernized the state's bank franchise tax and that expanded the Delaware Court of Chancery's jurisdiction to permit mediation of complex business and technology disputes. He has advised and counseled businesses and government agencies on investigations, and he was involved in the representation of Bluewater Wind, which resulted in the first offshore wind power generation agreement in U.S. history. Joe earned his J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was an associate editor of *Yale Law & Policy Review*, and his B.A., *summa cum laude*, from the University of Delaware.

Shawn P. Tucker – Shawn has extensive experience in zoning and subdivision law, general real estate deals, land use litigation, and government procurement and regulatory matters. He has served as New Castle County's attorney in charge of all land use matters and land use-related litigation and was one of the principal authors of the county's zoning and subdivision code. He also served as the General Manager of the New Castle County Land Use Department, a position that included responsibility for all zoning, subdivision, permitting, property assessment and code enforcement matters as well as responsibility for intergovernmental coordination on land use matters across the state. Shawn is also a former Delaware Deputy Attorney General and a former judicial clerk to the Hon. Richard R. Cooch, Resident Judge of New Castle County for the Superior Court of the State of Delaware. He received his law degree from Widener University School of Law, where he was a member of the Trial Advocacy Honor Society. Shawn received his bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware.

A brief biography of the new of counsel follows:

Charles M. Oberly – Charles, who served 12 years as Delaware's Attorney General, concentrates his practice on corporate and other civil litigation, internal corporate investigations, white collar defense and government relations matters. He has appeared before and tried cases in all Delaware state and federal courts as well as argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. A longtime fixture of the Delaware bar, Charles was a founder and co-editor of the *Delaware Law Monthly*, a publication that reported all significant Delaware state court decisions for nearly two decades before ceasing publication in 1997. He earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School and his bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, from Pennsylvania State University.

Brief biographies of the new associates follow:

Jennifer B. Ranji – Jennifer has significant experience in government affairs, serving in several government policy positions including Director of Legal Affairs for the Delaware Family Court system and as deputy legal counsel to then-Gov. Thomas R. Carper. She is a former chairwoman of the Women and the Law Section of the DSBA, the Delaware Child Protection Accountability commission and the Governor's Synar Advisory Committee, having been appointed to the latter two positions by Gov. Minner. She earned her law degree from Widener University School of Law and her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.

Chandra J. Rudloff – Chandra focuses her practice in white collar defense and civil litigation matters. She earned her J.D. from Widener University School of Law and her B.S. from the University of Delaware. She served as a clerk to the Hon. William C. Carpenter, Jr., associate judge of the New Castle County Superior Court.

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Karen V. Sullivan – Karen has broad experience in a variety of litigation matters, including white collar defense, bankruptcy and civil litigation. She received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and her bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware.

Daniel Turner, Jr. – Daniel focuses his practice on real estate financing, with experience handling multimillion-dollar commercial real estate financings. He has served as bond counsel, co-bond counsel or underwriters counsel in municipal, public utility and state agency bond financings. Daniel earned his J.D. from Howard University School of Law, an M.A. from Temple University and a B.A. from the College of Wooster.

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, a national law firm with nearly 700 lawyers in 12 offices, strives to provide clients with the best possible service in areas such as commercial litigation, corporate and securities, real estate, corporate restructuring, intellectual property, government and regulatory affairs, labor and employment, environmental, communications litigation, products liability and mass tort litigation, health care, employee benefits and executive compensation, insurance coverage, investment management, life insurance and annuities, and private client services.