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## ***Chicago Lawyer* Names GCD's Jesse Ruiz One of 10 Lawyers "Taking Off After 30"**

(Chicago, IL—Feb. 9, 2006) — **Jesse Ruiz**, newly appointed Vice Chairman of the Corporate and Securities Department at Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP, has been named one of 10 lawyers "Taking Off After 30" by *Chicago Lawyer* magazine.

February's *Chicago Lawyer* reports the results of the "Taking Off After 30" survey, conducted by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company to determine the preeminent attorneys in Illinois who graduated from law school and passed the bar after the age of 30. In order to maintain objectivity, only nominations from attorneys outside of the nominee's law firm were accepted for the survey.

Mr. Ruiz is cited by *Chicago Lawyer* for his achievement as the first Latino Corporate and Securities partner at Gardner Carton & Douglas, and for his 2004 appointment as Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education by Governor Rod Blagojevich..

Upon earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, Mr. Ruiz worked as an account administrator with Inland Steel Company, and as a senior account representative at another division of Inland Steel Industries, Ryerson Coil Processing. In 1992, Mr. Ruiz left Ryerson to enter law school at the University of Chicago, seeking "a career in law as a way to make a difference."

"Mr. Ruiz stands out as one of the most competent and professional attorneys I have dealt with over the 28 years of my practice," according to Robert Finch, former Chairperson of the Corporate Department of the Atlanta-based firm of Arnold Golden Gregory LLP. "He is able to strike the right balance between representing his client and at the same time working toward a successful closing for all parties."

With no regrets about his late start in the legal profession, Mr. Ruiz tells *Chicago Lawyer*, "I wanted to become an attorney to have a career in which I could still be engaged in business, which I do as a corporate lawyer, and also use my skills to help people in the community through pro bono work. I also wanted to help shape policy, as I am able to do on the Illinois State Board of Education."

His practice at Gardner Carton & Douglas focuses on mergers and acquisitions and the representation of public and middle market companies. In August 2005, Mr. Ruiz was appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on Diversity in the Profession by American Bar Association President Michael S. Greco. He is the Immediate Past Chairperson of the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms, and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the leading Latino litigation, advocacy and educational outreach institution in the United States.

Ruiz was named an "Illinois Super Lawyer" in the area of Mergers & Acquisitions in both 2005 and 2006. In 2005 he was also named to the Illinois Leading Lawyers Network. In 2003, Mr. Ruiz was profiled in *Crain's Chicago Business* as one of "40 Under 40 Rising Stars in Chicago Business." That same year, he was recognized by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company, which publishes *Chicago Lawyer* and *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, as one of the "40 Attorneys Under 40 in Illinois to Watch" and was selected by Chicago United to be featured in its first "Business Leaders of Color" publication, published in *Crain's Chicago Business*.

**Founded nearly 100 years ago, Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP is a leading national law firm with offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, New York, Milwaukee and Albany. The firm has more than 230 lawyers and advisors practicing in corporate law, corporate restructuring, customs and international trade, government relations, health law, HR law (employee benefits and employment), intellectual property, litigation and dispute resolution, real estate and environmental law, and wealth planning and philanthropy. GCD is the by-invitation firm representing Chicago in the World Law Group, a global consortium of firms in large cities worldwide.**