



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lisa Murray

617.856.8509

lmurray@brownrudnick.com

BROWN RUDNICK ATTORNEYS AMONG HARTFORD'S BEST

*Five Partners Recognized by Hartford Magazine as Area's Top Lawyers
in Bankruptcy and Creditors Rights, Energy, Environmental Law and Real Estate*

Boston, MA, October 26, 2005 – Brown Rudnick, a premier international law firm, today announced that five of its Hartford-based attorneys have been recognized as among the region's best in bankruptcy and creditors rights, energy, environmental and real estate law. Five partners - Mark A. Asmar, Douglas A. Cohen, Franca DeRosa, Howard L. Siegel, and Phillip M. Small - were all named as "Greater Hartford's Top Lawyers" in September's *Hartford Magazine*. These are the same Connecticut attorneys recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America 2005-2006*.

These accolades come on the heels of recent recognition cited in *Chambers and Partners' Guide to America's Leading Business Lawyers* for the firm's expertise in real estate, environmental and bankruptcy law.

According to Joseph F. Ryan, CEO of Brown Rudnick, "Our Connecticut team is distinguishing itself across all areas of practice. Each attorney and professional blends consummate skill and client dedication, and it is gratifying to see them recognized for their contributions. These are well-deserved honors and we congratulate them all."

Mark A. Asmar focuses his practice on complex real estate development and finance transactions. He has counseled owners and lending institutions in complex real estate matters in Connecticut as well as in multi-state transactions. His development and financing experience encompasses office buildings, office parks, hotels, shopping centers and multi-use projects.



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Douglas A. Cohen has practiced exclusively in the energy and environmental field since 1980, first at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and then at the U.S. Department of Justice. In private practice since 1988, he is currently involved in the environmental and permitting implications of transactions involving large, multi-national corporations, as well as the environmental and permitting implications involved in acquisitions and divestitures under the new utility deregulation statutes.

Franca DeRosa serves as Co-Chair of the Energy Practice Group, focusing her practice on all aspects of energy and environmental law. She has counseled utility companies on a variety of environmental and regulatory matters and has extensive experience with the State and Federal Regulatory Agencies. Ms. DeRosa also is a member of the Firm's Management Committee.

Howard L. Siegel is the Managing Partner of the Hartford office and is Co-Chair of the Firm's Energy Practice Group. He has represented clients in matters involving the acquisition, divestiture and financing of electric generation facilities; electric industry restructuring; bankruptcy and reorganization; corporate and real estate debt restructuring; commercial, corporate and project finance and business transactions.

Philip M. Small practices in the firm's Energy and Environmental Practice Groups and serves as Chair of the Connecticut Bar Association's Public Utility Law Section for 2004-2005. With over 25 years of experience in energy and public utility law, Mr. Small has represented myriad clients including regulated and unregulated electric utility subsidiaries, project developers, power plant owners, exempt wholesale generators, natural gas pipelines, equipment manufacturers and vendors, and retail utility customers.

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

Brown Rudnick is a full-service, international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm's 200 attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law:



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Corporate & Securities, Corporate Finance, Intellectual Property, Project and Structured Finance, Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Energy, Government Law & Strategies,

Health Care, Real Estate, Complex Litigation and Trusts & Estates. Combining a dedication to excellence with the implementation of sophisticated technologies, Brown Rudnick provides its clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnick.com.

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a measure of the Firm's strong commitment to the community and serves as an umbrella entity encompassing the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. The Center supports the mission of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., which provides grants in support of improving inner city education. For more information about the Center, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com.

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