



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BROWN RUDNICK EXPANDS REAL ESTATE PRACTICE WITH ADDITION OF NEW PARTNER**

*James E. Wakim brings strong commercial real estate experience*

**Boston, MA, March 9, 2005** – Brown Rudnick, a premier international law firm, today announced that James E. Wakim has joined the firm's Hartford, Connecticut office as a partner in the Real Estate Group. Mr. Wakim focuses his practice on commercial real estate matters, particularly in the areas of property acquisition, disposition and development; retail-based anchor tenant leasing, retail strip and ground leasing; and office leasing. Additionally, he handles deals involving land development, parcel assemblage, complex title matters, land use, 1031 transactions, and real estate-based finance work.

Prior to joining Brown Rudnick, Mr. Wakim was a partner in the East Hartford, Connecticut law firm of Wakim, Merlin & Randich, LLP. From 1995 to 2003, he served as General Counsel to Konover & Associates, Inc. and was the sole shareholder and principal of Cohen, Wakim & Merlin, P.C., a full service, captive law firm located in Farmington, Connecticut.

"I am delighted to join Brown Rudnick," said Mr. Wakim. "The firm's Real Estate Group is involved in many complex deals that align with my background, such as affordable housing, 1031 exchange, energy, retail, and military base closure and reuse. Additionally, the collaborative nature of the firm fosters numerous cross-departmental opportunities for me to continue to grow my practice."

Brown Rudnick's CEO Joe Ryan said, "Jim's practice focus and experience are an ideal complement to our strong real estate practice. Moreover, he possesses the same pioneering vision that has earned our real estate team a reputation as innovators and problem solvers. Jim is a welcome addition to our firm."

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## **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: Real Estate, Bankruptcy & Finance, Complex Litigation, Corporate & Securities, Intellectual Property, Government Law & Strategies, Energy and Health Care. Combining a dedication to excellence with a commitment to superior client service, Brown Rudnick provides its clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs.

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.

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