

## The Legal Alliance of the Americas Expands to Include Firms from Peru, Colombia

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February 19, 2016

The Legal Alliance of the Americas, a network of top law firms in North and South America, with more than 300 attorneys, has announced that it has expanded into Peru and Colombia.

The Alliance focuses on providing legal services throughout the Americas. It comprises top-tier law firms in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and the United States, and has recently added two new firms: Casahierro Abogados in Lima, Peru, and Lloreda Camacho & Co. in Bogota, Colombia. The addition of these firms will further expand the Alliance's reach and provide clients with seamless representation in more key markets.

Companies and investors are increasingly eager to do business throughout North and South America, provided they are able to mitigate legal and regulatory risks. The Legal Alliance of the Americas network counsels companies in navigating the legal issues that arise when operating or investing in the Americas.

Due to growing client interest in expansion and operations in South America, the Alliance will present an informational program in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on doing business in North and South America, and the legal compliance issues involved in cross-border business relationships. The keynote speaker will be Brazilian economist, engineer and entrepreneur Ingo Plöger, President of the Business Council of Latin America.

"This event is an excellent opportunity for companies and investors who are interested in hearing from legal and business specialists about the opportunities and legal issues in these North and South American markets," said Jose P. Ceppi, executive director of the Alliance.

The event will be 9 a.m.-12 p.m., March 8, 2016, at the office of Rothmann, Sperling, Padovan, Duarte, Advogados, Av. 9 de Julho, Sao Paulo, Brazil. It will include panel presentations by attorneys from each of the Alliance firms.

For information about the event, contact Amanda Prevides at +55 11 3074-0788 or visit the Alliance website at <http://legalallianceoftheamericas.com>.

### **About The Legal Alliance of the Americas**

*The Legal Alliance of the Americas is a network of market-leading, independent law firms with an international focus, shared values and approaches that brings together more than 300 lawyers in 14 cities. The Alliance firms strive to provide superior coordinated legal services throughout the Americas, providing clients seamless services across key jurisdictions of North and South America. For more information, visit <http://legalallianceoftheamericas.com>*

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## Miller Canfield to participate in Women in Law Hackathon

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### Top law firms nationwide generating ideas to recruit, retain, advance women in law careers

February 23, 2016

DETROIT

Miller Canfield, a global law firm headquartered in Detroit, has announced that it is one of 54 top law firms nationwide, and the only Michigan-headquartered firm, to be selected to participate in **Women in Law Hackathon**, an innovative program to advance the careers of women in the legal profession. The announcement was made by Miller Canfield CEO Michael McGee.

The **Women in Law Hackathon** is a national "Shark Tank"-style pitch competition created by the Diversity Lab in collaboration with Stanford Law School and Bloomberg Law. The goal of the Hackathon is to generate innovative ideas and solutions that will lead to greater recruitment, retention and advancement of women in law firms.

**Dawn M. Schluter**, Chair of Women of Miller Canfield and Personal Services Group leader, has been selected to represent Miller Canfield, and will work with a group of other senior attorneys from major law firms around the country as a participant in this inaugural Women in Law Hackathon. Schluter is a member of one of nine teams, each comprised of six high-level partners, two expert advisors and one Stanford law student. Over a period of six months, each team will generate practical and actionable ideas to improve gender parity in law firms.

During the Hackathon, and continuing thereafter, Miller Canfield will create a Hackathon Support Committee. The HSC will be co-chaired by Schluter and Miller Canfield Principal **A. Michael Palizzi**, Miller Canfield Intellectual Property Group leader and Litigation Group co-leader.

The HSC will provide plans to firm leadership, and thereafter work to implement transformative plans based upon the lessons gleaned from the Hackathon.

**"Our goal is to firmly establish Miller Canfield as a firm that attracts, supports, retains and advances the very best women attorneys," McGee said.**

The nine Hackathon teams were formed and started their work in January. They will work through June of this year to devise their respective projects, plans or initiatives. The teams will then present their ideas in-person to a panel of expert judges at a pitch event at Stanford Law School on June 24, 2016. The top three winning teams will award grant prizes, donated by Bloomberg Law (\$10,000 for 1st place; \$7,500 for 2nd place; and \$5,000 for 3rd place), to their choice of a non-profit organization that advances women in the legal profession and beyond.

Miller Canfield will participate alongside an impressive array of leading Big Law firms from across the country, including, among many others: Sidley, Orrick, White & Case, Akin Gump, Jenner & Block, Weil Gotshal, Reed Smith, Morrison Foerster, Vinson & Elkins, Seyfarth Shaw, Skadden, Arnold & Porter, Haynes & Boone, Holland & Knight, Andrews Kurth, Fried Frank, Morgan Lewis, Kirkland, Sullivan Cromwell, Dentons, Wilson Sonsini, WilmerHale, DLA Piper, Winston & Strawn and Kilpatrick Townsend, among others.

## **Ibro Muharemovic Joins Leaders in Autonomous Vehicles to Present on Challenges, Opportunities to Industry and Region**

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February 23, 2016

DETROIT

Ibro Muharemovic, the head of advanced engineering NAFTA systems and technology for Continental Automotive Systems, will be among a panel of experts in driverless automotive technology at a March 2, 2016 event at Automation Alley.

Miller Canfield, a Detroit-based global law firm, together with the Oakland County Bar Association, is co-sponsoring an informative presentation about one of the most dramatic developments in the automotive industry today: autonomous vehicles. Automation Alley will host the event at its headquarters in Troy.

Autonomous vehicles (AVs) are rapidly evolving, from being a speculative concept to a reality. This presentation and seminar, "Autonomous Vehicles are Coming: Opportunities and Challenges," will explore how self-driving cars will impact the Detroit metropolitan region, including legal, economic growth and policy considerations.

Muharemovic joins the roster of thought leaders in autonomous vehicle technology, including U-M Mobility Transformation Center Assistant Director John Maddox; Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle; and Automation Alley Director of Entrepreneurship Tom Kelly, among others.

"The autonomous vehicle is going to introduce revolutionary change not only to how we drive cars, but to how the auto industry will function," said Richard Walawender, director of the Automotive Vehicle Practice at Miller Canfield in Detroit.

"The self-driving car is not just a concept for the future. The technology that makes AVs possible is here, and it will be functioning in cars much sooner than most people realize. It's already affecting how car companies, suppliers and software providers are doing business in the auto industry."

The topics to be discussed include: the present and future state of AV technology; how the region can be a leader in AV development; public-private initiatives to help AV development; legal liability issues; local government's role in encouraging industry growth; franchising and regulating shared mobility providers; and regulating vehicle to infrastructure (V2I) connectivity.

The speakers will include:

- Ibro Muharemovic, Head of Advanced Engineering NAFTA Systems & Technology, Continental Automotive Systems
- John Maddox, Assistant Director of U-M Mobility Transformation Center and Director of Collaborative Program Strategy, U-M Transportation Institute
- Richard Walawender, Corporate Group Co-Leader and Director of the International Practice and Automotive Practice groups, Miller Canfield
- Tom Kelly, COO and Director of Entrepreneurship, Automation Alley

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- Bryce Pilz, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Michigan Law School
- Matt Gibb, Deputy Oakland County Executive
- Emily Frascaroli, Counsel, Ford Motor Co.
- Kirk Steudle, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation
- Nicole Tabin, Oakland County Bar Association

The seminar will be 7:30-11 a.m., March 2, 2016, at Automation Alley, 2675 Bellingham, Troy, Michigan. Networking and a continental breakfast are included. Speaker presentations will be 8-10:30 a.m., followed by a panel Q&A session. The cost to attend is \$30 if pre-registered, or \$40 for on-site registration. For more information, please visit: <https://www.automationalley.com/Events/Calendar/Event-Detail.aspx?uniqueid=21712> or email [info@automationalley.com](mailto:info@automationalley.com)

## Miller Canfield Announces Addition of 10 Strategic Hires in Chicago and Michigan

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February 29, 2016

Miller Canfield, a Detroit-based global law firm, has announced that it has added 10 well-known and respected attorneys to the firm's Michigan and Chicago offices. The strategic hires included top talent from across the spectrum of legal professionals, from the courts, non-profits and large and small law firms. The announcement was made by Miller Canfield CEO Michael McGee.

"We are fortunate to have such a distinguished group of highly skilled and respected lawyers joining us," McGee said. "These additions to our firm position us to provide the excellent legal services across the spectrum of areas of expertise where our clients need us most."

Additions to the firm's Michigan offices include:

- **Philip Hamilton**, who was formerly assistant general counsel with TriFound Financial LLC, has joined the Kalamazoo, Michigan, office of Miller Canfield as a senior attorney in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution group. He resides in Portage, Michigan.
- Senior Counsel **Christina Marshall**, a former Summit County, Ohio, assistant prosecutor, and most recently an attorney at the Sutter O'Connell firm in Cleveland, has joined the Product Safety practice in Miller Canfield's Troy, Michigan, office. Marshall has tried criminal and civil cases and has successfully argued in front of the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Also in the Troy office, **Zlatina (Tina) Georgieva** has joined the Product Safety practice as a senior attorney. Georgieva, a Rochester Hills resident, was with Bowman and Brooke in Detroit, where she practiced product liability litigation, class action and multidistrict litigation. Her practice encompassed multidistrict litigation, serial product liability cases and single-incident loss cases in the United States and Canada.
- **James M. Crowley** and **Alan D. Szuma**, formerly with Clark Hill, have joined Miller Canfield's Public Finance group as principals. They will both work in the Detroit office. They have maintained a robust school finance practice, representing school districts, charter schools and other educational institutions in Michigan. Crowley is a resident of Birmingham, Michigan. Szuma lives in Beverly Hills, Michigan.
- **Jeff Aronoff** is rejoining Miller Canfield's Public Finance group as a principal after a three-year absence, during which he headed the nonprofit D:hive, and launched Sidewalk Ventures, which helps businesses find and secure non-traditional funding sources. Aronoff has worked on challenging projects such as the restructuring and redevelopment of Cobo Hall. He lives in Huntington Woods, Michigan.

New hires in the Chicago office include:

- Principal **Matthew F. Logan**, a former partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP in Chicago, joined Miller Canfield's Corporate group. He focuses his work on commercial transactions such as mergers, acquisitions, commercial finance, real estate and corporate restructuring. He is a resident of Harvard, Illinois, and serves on the professionals

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board of directors for Imerman Angels, a non-profit in Chicago that provides mentor support to people fighting cancer, and to their caregivers.

- Principal **Jacob Koering**, formerly a partner at Freeborn & Peters, joined Miller Canfield's Litigation and Intellectual Property groups. A resident of Elmhurst, Illinois, Koering is a registered patent attorney who has litigated more than 45 patents, and has engaged in litigation in a wide variety of technical areas.
- Principal **John M. Valentine**, formerly a partner at the boutique real estate firm Pircher, Nichols & Meeks in Chicago, has joined Miller Canfield's Real Estate group. His work includes complex real estate transactions nationwide, across a broad range of real estate, including multifamily, industrial and office properties. He resides in Wheaton, Illinois.
- Former presiding judge of the Cook County Circuit Court Criminal Division, **Hon. Paul P. Biebel**, who retired in July from 20 years of service on the bench, has joined the firm as of-counsel. Biebel has an exemplary record in the Chicago legal community, having served with distinction in a number of positions over a celebrated career.

The additions to the firm are part of a strategic growth plan, and support Miller Canfield's reputation for client service excellence.

"With client service delivery as the driver, these legal professionals reflect our ongoing commitment to recruiting the very best talent available, from varied professional backgrounds," McGee said.

## Chambers USA Names Miller Canfield Lawyers Among Best in the Country

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May 27, 2016

Miller Canfield, a global law firm headquartered in Detroit, has announced that Chambers USA 2016 has ranked 16 of the firm's attorneys and six practice groups among the best in the country.

Chambers and Partners, which produces Chambers USA, is a client referral guide that researches and subjectively ranks attorneys and law firm practice groups nationwide and globally. It ranks firms and lawyers considered leaders in their profession.

The firm was ranked in: Banking and Finance; Corporate/M&A; Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation; Labor and Employment; Real Estate; and Litigation, which received the highest possible ranking, Band 1.

"One of the hallmarks of the Chambers rankings is their exhaustive research and interviews with clients. We are proud that our clients hold us in high regard," said Miller Canfield CEO Michael McGee.

Individual attorneys who were ranked by Chambers include:

- Ann Arbor, Michigan
  - Jeffrey L. LaBine, Corporate/M&A
  - Clarence L. Pozza Jr., Litigation
  - Stephen G. Palms, Real Estate
  - Joseph M. Fazio, Real Estate
- Chicago
  - Amy J. Zdravecky, Labor & Employment
- Detroit
  - Jonathan S. Green, Banking and Finance: Bankruptcy
  - Steven A. Roach, Banking and Finance: Bankruptcy
  - Orin D. Brustad, Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation
  - Christopher A. McMican, Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation
  - Megan P. Norris, Labor & Employment
  - Leonard D. Givens, Labor & Employment
  - Carl H. von Ende, Litigation
- Grand Rapids, Michigan
  - Trent Taylor, Banking and Finance
- Troy, Michigan

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- Thomas W. Cranmer, Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations
- Ronald E. Hodess, Real Estate
- James A. Simpson, Real Estate

Additionally, Chambers Asia Pacific ranked Kening Li, in Miller Canfield's Shanghai, China office in two categories: Intellectual Property: International Firms, China; and Life Sciences, International Firms, China.

Attorneys who received Band 1 rankings in Chambers USA include: Cranmer, Brustad, Norris, Green and Palms.

For more information about Chambers and Partners and Chambers USA, visit <http://www.chambersandpartners.com/>

### **About Miller Canfield**

With over 250 lawyers practicing in all major areas of law and 14 offices in five countries, Miller Canfield is among the 200 largest law firms in the U.S. Our lawyers are recognized by the most prestigious legal referral guides and organizations around the world, including Chambers USA and the 2016 edition of "Best Law Firms" published by *U.S. News & World Report*, in which Miller Canfield received national first-tier rankings in Public Finance Law, Labor & Employment Litigation and Labor Law-Management. Miller Canfield was also named by corporate counsel as a "Standout in Complex Labor Litigation" in the *BTI Litigation Outlook 2015* report, the second consecutive year. The firm is also recognized for superior client service in the 2015 BTI Client Service A-Team report. Visit [www.millercanfield.com](http://www.millercanfield.com). Follow us on Twitter, [www.twitter.com/millercanfield](https://twitter.com/millercanfield).



## Miller Canfield Teams with Chamber to Publish Definitive Employment and Labor Law Update

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May 15, 2016

Miller Canfield's nationally ranked Employment and Labor Group has again teamed up with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce to publish the "2016 Employment Law Handbooks," an annual update of employment laws for employers of all sizes. The three-volume set of handbooks includes: Hiring & Firing, Compensation & Benefits and Employer & Employee Protections.

"In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court was very active, releasing six decisions that had a major impact on employers," said Employment and Labor Group co-leader Christopher Trebilcock. "These handbooks help employers sort out if, and how these opinions impact their workforces, and how to navigate issues such as discrimination, the Affordable Care Act, class action suits and retiree benefits."

Each year, Miller Canfield lawyers write and update the handbook, which the Chamber sells through its website in both print and electronic editions. This year's complete e-edition costs \$99 for Chamber members and \$149 for non-members. Shipping and handling charges are added for those that order the print edition only.

They include in-depth analysis of Michigan and federal employment laws, including recent hot-button topics such as:

- Pregnancy discrimination and accommodation changes
- Retiree health benefits disputes
- Handbook policies
- College athlete unions
- OSHA guidance on restroom access for transgender workers
- Wellness programs and new regulatory guidance
- The same-sex marriage case's impact on FMLA and other workplace issues
- Religious accommodations and protections in hiring
- Determining "joint employer" status
- Updates to medical marijuana, concealed weapons, and Fair Credit Reporting Act which will require employer attention
- How recent executive actions on immigration will impact employers

"The information in this reference guide goes beyond what the courts and the various regulatory bodies have done," Trebilcock said. "It also helps to explain what the impact will be, and how these issues could specifically impact employers."

The handbooks can be ordered directly from the Chamber website at [www.michamber.com/publications-store](http://www.michamber.com/publications-store).