SUPER LAWYERS RECOGNIZES 28 O'NEIL CANNON ATTORNEYS

Each year, *Super Lawyers* surveys the State of Wisconsin's 15,000 attorneys and judges, seeking to recognize the State's top attorneys. Recently, *Super Lawyers* published its lists for 2025, which include the Top 10 Attorneys in Wisconsin, Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin, Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee, Super Lawyers (consisting of the top 5% of attorneys in Wisconsin), and Rising Stars (consisting of attorneys who are 40 years old or younger or who have been in practice for 10 years or less).

Super Lawyers, who previously referred to the firm as "the Milwaukee mid-sized powerhouse," recognized twenty-eight of our attorneys.

Those attorneys are the following:

- Dino Antonopoulos:
    - Super Lawyer
- Nick Chmurski:
    - Rising Star
- Doug Dehler:
    - Super Lawyer
- Jim DeJong:
    - Super Lawyer
- Seth Dizard:
    - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
    - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
    - Super Lawyer
- Maura Falk:
    - Rising Star
- Pete Faust:
    - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
    - Super Lawyer
- John Gehringer:
    - Super Lawyer
- Joseph Gumina:
    - Super Lawyer
- Jessica Haskell:
    - Rising Star
- Mike Kennedy:
    - Rising Star
- Grant Killoran:
    - Super Lawyer
    - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
    - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee

- JB Koenings:
    - Super Lawyer
- Dean Laing:
    - Top 10 Attorneys in Wisconsin
    - Top 50 Attorneys in Wisconsin
    - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
    - Super Lawyer
- Trevor Lippman:
    - Rising Star
- Greg Lyons:
    - Super Lawyer
- Patrick McBride:
    - Super Lawyer
- Jason Meehan:
    - Rising Star
- Joe Newbold:
    - Super Lawyer
- Erica Reib:
    - Rising Star
- Chad Richter:
    - Super Lawyer
- Ryan Riebe:
    - Rising Star
- John Schreiber:
    - Super Lawyer
- Jason Scoby:
    - Super Lawyer
- Steve Slawinski:
    - Super Lawyer
- Kelly Spott:
    - Rising Star
- Christa Wittenberg:
    - Rising Star

Super Lawyers is a national rating service that rates attorneys in all 50 states. The selection process utilized by *Super Lawyers* is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations. One court recently had this to say about *Super Lawyers*:

"[T]he selection procedures employed by [*Super Lawyers*] are very sophisticated, comprehensive, and complex. It is abundantly clear . . . that [*Super Lawyers* does] not permit a lawyer to buy one's way onto the list, nor is there any requirement for the purchase of any product for inclusion in the lists or any quid pro quo of any kind or nature associated with the evaluation and listing of an attorney or in the subsequent advertising of one's inclusion in the lists."

We are proud to be one of the few firms in Wisconsin with more than 50% of its attorneys

recognized by *Super Lawyers.*

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS RECOGNIZES FAUST AND O'NEIL CANNON FOR M&A EXCELLENCE

We're proud to announce that Attorney Pete Faust and O'Neil Cannon's mergers and acquisitions team have been recognized by *Chambers and Partners* as among the top in Wisconsin for M&A and general corporate law.

O'Neil Cannon is one of only seven Wisconsin firms ranked by *Chambers and Partners* in this category. Faust, the firm's president and managing shareholder, is one of just 23 Wisconsin attorneys to earn individual recognition for excellence in M&A.

In addition to Faust, O'Neil Cannon's mergers and acquisitions team includes Dino Antonopoulos, JB Koenings, Britany Morrison, Chad Richter, Jason Scoby, James DeJong, Cate Heerey, Michael Kennedy, Jason Meehan, Samuel Nelson, and Nancy Wilson.

Chambers and Partners, a London-based research firm, evaluates law firms and attorneys across 185 countries. Each year, more than 200 researchers conduct thousands of interviews with lawyers and clients to identify and rank the leading professionals in the legal field.

CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT BLOCKED AGAIN

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated a nationwide injunction on the reporting of beneficial ownership information under the Corporate Transparency Act. The injunction issued by a Texas federal court in early December had been overturned last week by a different Fifth Circuit panel.

For now, reporting companies are (again) no longer required to report beneficial ownership information, but reporting of beneficial ownership under the CTA could be required in the future. The Fifth Circuit will hear arguments regarding the CTA reporting obligations on March 25, 2025. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network has indicated that reporting companies may continue to submit beneficial ownership information on a voluntary basis.

Given the uncertainty about what may happen in the appeal process, reporting companies should continue to gather beneficial ownership information in order to ensure compliance with any future reporting deadlines.

O'Neil Cannon will continue to monitor and provide further updates regarding the CTA. Please reach out to a member of the O'Neil Cannon team if you have questions related to the CTA.

CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT REINSTATED WITH NEW REPORTING DEADLINES

On December 23, 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit stayed a preliminary injunction of the Corporate Transparency Act. As a result, the U.S. federal government is again able to enforce the CTA, which includes the reporting of beneficial ownership information. Shortly after the Fifth Circuit issued the stay, the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network extended the filing deadlines for certain reporting companies to submit beneficial ownership information. The response to the Fifth Circuit's decision by FinCEN[1] states in part:

"In light of a December 23, 2024, federal Court of Appeals decision, reporting companies, except as indicated below, are once again required to file beneficial ownership information with FinCEN. However, because the Department of the Treasury recognizes that reporting companies may need additional time to comply given the period when the preliminary injunction had been in effect, we have extended the reporting deadline as follows:

- *Reporting companies that were created or registered prior to January 1, 2024 have until January 13, 2025 to file their initial beneficial ownership information reports with FinCEN. (These companies would otherwise have been required to report by January 1, 2025.)*
- *Reporting companies created or registered in the United States on or after September 4, 2024 that had a filing deadline between December 3, 2024 and December 23, 2024 have until January 13, 2025 to file their initial beneficial ownership information reports with FinCEN.*
- *Reporting companies created or registered in the United States on or after December 3, 2024 and on or before December 23, 2024 have an additional 21 days from their original filing deadline to file their initial beneficial ownership information reports with FinCEN."*

Subject to any further developments, in light of the Fifth Circuit's decision and FinCEN's limited reprieve, reporting companies should gather beneficial ownership information as soon as possible in order to prepare the requisite filings by the updated deadlines.

For additional information or questions related to the CTA, please reach out to a member of the O'Neil Cannon team.

[1] The full alert (and other information related to the CTA and beneficial ownership reporting) is available at https://fincen.gov/boi.

CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT INJUNCTION ALERT

On December 3, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas granted a preliminary, nationwide injunction enjoining the United States federal government from enforcing the Corporate Transparency Act ("CTA"), which includes the reporting of beneficial ownership information ("BOI Report") to the U.S. Federal Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"). The court's reasoning revolved around the constitutionality of the CTA. The immediate impact is that companies are, at least temporarily, no longer required to file a BOI Report with FinCEN. Prior to this temporary injunction, the deadline for companies subject to the CTA filing requirements that formed prior to January 1, 2024 to file a BOI Report with FinCEN was January 1, 2025 (companies subject to the CTA filing requirements that were formed in 2024 previously had to file a BOI Report with FinCEN within 90 days of their formation, and companies subject to the CTA filing requirements that are formed on or after January 1, 2025 would have been required to file a BOI Report within 30 days of their formation).

Although the current injunction is nationwide (meaning all companies subject to the CTA filing requirements no longer have to file a BOI Report), because of the nature of the temporary injunction, it is entirely possible that the United States government may choose to appeal the preliminary injunction to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, or potentially to the United States Supreme Court. If an emergency appeal is filed and heard, it is possible that the injunction will be removed and that all companies subject to the CTA filing requirements will again be required to report with no guarantee of any extension of the applicable deadlines. Additionally, it is also possible that an appeals court could remove the nationwide injunction and only leave it applicable to the specific plaintiffs, similar to the March 2024 ruling issued by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama in *NSBA v Yellen*, which enjoined the government from enforcing the CTA against only the specific plaintiffs in that case. Furthermore, as of this writing, FinCEN has not issued a formal response regarding the injunction, which may provide further detail for reporting deadlines or other additional guidance, although FinCEN is currently still accepting BOI Reports. The rapidly approaching deadline coupled with the uncertainty as to whether the government will appeal or not (and if

an appeal is made, what the ultimate ruling will be) puts companies in a difficult position to choose between (1) complying with the CTA and filing a BOI Report by the applicable deadline regardless of the injunction, or (2) waiting until a final determination is made and possibly rushing to file by year end. Please note that if you choose to not file a BOI Report for a company required to comply with the CTA and the injunction is lifted, depending on the timing, we may not be able to file your BOI Report by the new deadline unless the deadline is extended.

O'Neil Cannon will continue to monitor for additional developments. For additional information or questions related to the CTA, please reach out to a member of the O'Neil Cannon team.

SUPER LAWYERS RECOGNIZES 30 O'NEIL CANNON ATTORNEYS

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Thirty of our attorneys were recognized by *Super Lawyers*, which has referred to the firm as "the Milwaukee mid-sized powerhouse." Those attorneys are the following:

- Emily Behn:
    - Rising Star
- Nick Chmurski:
    - Rising Star
- Doug Dehler:
    - Super Lawyer
- Jim DeJong:
    - Super Lawyer
- Seth Dizard:
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    - Top 25 Attorneys in Milwaukee
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- Pete Faust:
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- Jason Meehan:
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- Britany Morrison:
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- Joe Newbold:
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- Erica Reib:
    - Rising Star
- Chad Richter:
    - Super Lawyer
- Ryan Riebe:
    - Rising Star
- John Schreiber:
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- Jason Scoby:
    - Super Lawyer
- Steve Slawinski:
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We are proud to be one of the few firms in Wisconsin that had more than 50% of its attorneys receive recognition by *Super Lawyers.*

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- Joseph Gumina:

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    - Rising Star
- Mike Kennedy:
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CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS RECOGNIZES FAUST AND O'NEIL CANNON FOR M&A EXCELLENCE

Attorney Pete Faust and O'Neil Cannon's mergers and acquisitions team have been named by Chambers and Partners as among Wisconsin's best deal lawyers.

O'Neil Cannon is one of only seven Wisconsin law firms ranked by Chambers in the mergers and acquisition/general corporate category.

Faust, the firm's president and managing shareholder, is one of 23 Wisconsin lawyers individually honored by Chambers in the same category.

In addition to Faust, O'Neil Cannon's mergers and acquisitions team includes JB Koenings, Britany Morrison, Chad Richter, Jason Scoby, James DeJong, Dennis Hollman, Nicholas Chmurski, Michael Kennedy, Samuel Nelson, and Nancy Wilson.

Chambers is a London-based research firm that ranks the top lawyers and law firms in 185 countries. More than 200 Chambers researchers interview thousands of lawyers and clients as part of an in-depth analysis of the leading lawyers and law firms.

O'NEIL CANNON SERVES AS LEGAL ADVISOR TO I3 PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT IN ITS SALE TO HELIOS TECHNOLOGIES

O'Neil Cannon advised i3 Product Development (i3) in its recent sale to Helios Technologies

(NYSE: HLIO). i3, a custom engineering services firm with over 55 engineers, specializes in electronics, mechanical, industrial, embedded, and software engineering. Its solutions are used across many sectors, including medical, off-highway, recreational and commercial marine, power sports, health and wellness, agriculture, consumer goods, industrial, sports, and fitness. i3 has business locations in both Sun Prairie and Middleton, Wisconsin.

Helios Technologies is a global leader in highly engineered motion control and electronic controls technology for diverse end markets, including construction, material handling, agriculture, energy, recreational vehicles, marine, and health and wellness.

Josef Matosevic, Helios' President and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "The acquisition of i3 Product Development will turbocharge our efforts to be the most innovative company focused on the intersection of the hydraulics and electronics markets. This flywheel acquisition fits into our technology roadmap strategy like a glove and will continue to make us incredibly tough for our competition to follow."

The O'Neil Cannon deal team was led by Attorney Chad Richter with assistance provided by O'Neil Cannon attorneys Britany Morrison, Nick Chmurski, Erica Reib, Sam Nelson, and Michael Kennedy.

OCHDL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TWO NEW ATTORNEYS HAVE JOINED THE FIRM

We are pleased to announce Attorney Michael M. Kennedy and Attorney Jason R. Meehan have joined O'Neil Cannon

Attorney Michael M. Kennedy, a graduate of Marquette University Law School, will join the firm's Business Law Practice Group, where he will assist clients in a wide variety of business law matters. Drawing upon his experience as in-house counsel for a large construction company, Michael provides a high-level understanding of contract management and regulation.

Attorney Jason R. Meehan, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, will join the firm's Litigation Practice Group, where he will assist clients in a wide variety of litigation matters. Prior to joining the firm, Jason was working at the Wisconsin State Public Defender's office, where he managed and represented hundreds of clients charged with misdemeanor and felony cases in Milwaukee County.

We are very pleased to have Michael and Jason join OCHDL.

O’Neil Cannon, founded in Milwaukee in 1973, is a full-service law firm that primarily focuses on providing business law and civil litigation services to closely-held businesses and their owners. The firm represents corporations, institutions, and partnerships at all stages of the business life cycle, helping them start, grow and transition from one generation to the next.