



Shelly K.

HILLYER



Irene

MACDOUGALL



Jeffrey D.

STUPP



Kelli A.

WEBB



Thomas

MLAKAR



Richard

RIVITZ



Sheryl King

BENFORD

New Associations

Jennifer Gross joined Mansour, Gavin, Gerlack & Manos Co., LPA as an associate in the firm's business, real estate and appellate practice groups. Gross is a recent graduate of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

LaDavia S. Hatcher and *Reem Shalodi*, both graduates of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law (2007), joined Ulmer & Berne LLP as associates. While in school, Hatcher was heavily involved with the Midwest Region Executive Board of Black Law Students Association. Shalodi meanwhile served as senior editor of the *Cleveland State Law Review*.

Shelly K. Hillyer joined RPM International Inc. as associate general counsel and is responsible for managing its litigation and insurance coverage disputes. In addition, she coordinates RPM's legislative tort reform efforts and monitors compliance with corporate policies.

John F. Kramer joined RPM International Inc. as vice president of corporate development. Kramer works with the corporate team and RPM's operating companies to develop acquisition growth strategies and assists in executing these initiatives in support of RPM's overall acquisition program.

Nora E. Loftus joined Frantz Ward LLP as an associate in the construction and litigation groups. She also has experience in defending personal injury claims.

Irene MacDougall joined Tucker Ellis & West LLP as counsel in the firm's Cleveland office. MacDougall is a member of the firm's business department and has more than 20 years experience in financial transactions, real estate and corporate law.

Lori A. Pittman joined Ulmer & Berne LLP as an associate in the firm's real estate and business law groups. Her practice focuses on commercial real estate and merger and acquisitions with a strong background in real estate acquisition and refinancing.

Jeffrey D. Stupp joined Gallagher Sharp's professional liability and transportation practice groups. Stupp received his law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, *summa cum laude*, in 2007, where he served as lieutenant governor for the Sixth Circuit of the American Bar Association Student Law Division.

Kevin C. Susman joined Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A., as an associate in the legal action recovery department.

Lori Ross Tark joined Cavitch, Familo, Durkin & Frutkin, L.P.A., as an associate. Shei has extensive experience in securities litigation and has represented brokers and broker/dealers in both customer and industry disputes.

Kelli A. Webb joined the Cleveland office of Jackson Lewis LLP, a national labor and employment firm, as an associate. Webb's practice focuses on employment law.

Elections and Appointments

Thomas Mlakar, supervising attorney at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, was elected this week to the National Legal Aid and Defender Association's (NLADA) "Civil Policy Group" as a staff representative. His three-year term expires in 2010. This is the first election of a Cleveland attorney to this important policy group. NLADA's Civil Policy Group's primary objective is to develop programs and policies which support the NLADA and its members. Members are elected on a regional basis, and include management, staff, and clients from legal aid programs nationwide.

Brian Block, an associate with Javitch, Block & Rathbone, was elected to serve a two-year term on the board of directors of the National Association of Retail Collection Attorneys (NARCA). NARCA is a nationwide trade association of more than 700 skilled debt collection law firms, in-house counsel of creditors and industry vendors.

Raphael J. Omerza of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur was elected to the board of directors of The Musical Theater Project. Omerza serves numerous philanthropic endeavors with a particular interest in those that preserve and protect the arts and cultural assets found in the Greater Cleveland area. The mission of The Musical Theater Project is to foster a