

## Riemer & Braunstein Promotes Five Attys To Senior Partner

By **Matt Perez**

*Law360 (March 18, 2021, 4:06 PM EDT)* -- Boston-based Riemer & Braunstein LLP on Tuesday announced five of its attorneys became senior partners and two were promoted to partner status at its principal office as well as its New York and Miami outposts.

The boutique finance firm elevated attorneys primarily within its real estate finance practice, as well as its loan restructuring and commercial finance areas.

"This year's promotions to senior partnership and partnership are particularly significant to our geographic platform and reflect the strength of our summer program, law school hiring practices and our commitment to seek excellent lateral candidates in our core practice areas," Kevin Lyons, who sits on the executive committee and co-chairs its real estate finance practice, said in a statement Tuesday.

Out of its principal office in Boston, the firm promoted Meredith I. Deal to senior partner. Working in its real estate finance practice, Deal represents financial institutions in real estate transactions, with a focus on construction finance and acquisition and development loans. Joining the firm out of law school through its summer program, she also works out of the Chicago office. She earned her bachelor's degree from Brown University and her law degree from Washington University School of Law.

Another senior partner promotion out of Boston went to Michael G. Weinstein, who handles single-lender and multilender financing projects for financial institutions out of the firm's real estate finance practice. Building projects range from residential to retail shopping centers and industrial and office parks. He received his bachelor's degree from Skidmore College and his law degree from Suffolk University Law School.

In its New York office, the firm promoted two to senior partner. David Brier represents financial institutions, private equity firms and entrepreneurs through real estate financing matters, including mortgage and mezzanine lending, preferred equity investments, commercial leasing, and restructuring. He earned his bachelor's degree at City University of New York and his law degree from Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Anthony Stumbo also becomes a senior partner in the firm's commercial finance practice out of the New York office. He handles corporate finance transactions, workout and restructuring matters as well as bankruptcy reorganizations. He initially joined the firm in 2011, having come over from Epstein Becker & Green PC, and became a partner in 2013.

"It's a humbling accomplishment, and I'm very, very grateful and happy," Stumbo told Law360 on Thursday.

Speaking of the practice in the past year, he said, "We're very fortunate to have had a very busy 2020 and now part of 2021 ... I think we were able to serve our clients very well during the pandemic. If they had new loans, we worked on them and brought them to closing and as you can imagine, a number of loans went the workout route and we stood by our clients and helped them. And a few of those loans unfortunately went into bankruptcy and we're happy to say that from a lender-side representation, whereas the bankrupt entities were borrowers, we were able to successfully aid our clients in navigating the waters of bankruptcy and actually have some very successful results despite the fact that their borrowers were bankrupt."

Stumbo earned his bachelor's degree from New York University and his law degree from Fordham University School of Law.

Also in the New York outpost, Adam B. Chertok has moved to partner status after joining the firm as an associate in 2019. Working in both its real estate finance and real estate and business law practices, Chertok represents investors, lenders, borrowers and trusts in real estate transactions. He received his bachelor's degree from Emory University and his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law.

Steven M. Klein, the managing partner of the firm's recently opened Miami office, becomes a new senior partner working in both Riemer & Braunstein's real estate finance and real estate and business law practices. Klein represents institutional lenders in real estate transactions, and he handles sales and financing of commercial real estate projects and loan modifications and restructurings.

"It's an incredibly proud and gratifying moment for me," he said, who moved over from Florida-based Stearns Weaver Miller to help launch the Miami outpost. "It's just been a great experience."

With the Miami office opening its doors in 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic presented unforeseen challenges for Klein. But he notes that the outpost has been able to maintain momentum through the crisis.

"It's been a whirlwind in many respects," Klein said. "I certainly didn't know COVID was coming a year into the move and the opening of the office, but I think it's really been a testament to the firm as a whole and the firm's practices that it's really weathered the storm as well as can be expected — and frankly probably better than can be expected over the last year."

He earned his bachelor's degree from Yeshiva University and his law degree from its Cardozo School of Law.

Additionally, Corey E. Strauss became a partner out of Miami, having joined the firm as an associate in 2019. He represents clients in real estate financing matters as well as in the purchasing and sale of commercial real estate projects. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

"He came over a year and a half ago, and he's a really, really solid, strong lawyer and a really smart guy and an integral component of not just my practice, but our firm-wide real estate and real estate finance practice, and I'm just really happy for him," Klein said.

Riemer & Braunstein has five offices: two in Massachusetts, and outposts in New York, Chicago and Miami. The firm has around 80 attorneys in total.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

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