

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Debbie Riley, QPWB General Counsel
Managing Partner – Chicago Office
Phone: (312) 566-0040
Email: driley@qpwbllaw.com

QPWB Chicago Office Fortifies its Practices with the Addition of Eight Attorneys

Firm's focus is on areas of importance to Chicago's business community.

CHICAGO — January 5, 2015 — **Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.** is pleased to announce it has added eight new attorneys to its growing Chicago office. The firm strengthens its practice in the areas of medical malpractice defense with the addition of **Mary C. O'Connor, Laura G. Postilion, Matthew R. Hess** and **Kelly A. Pachis**. We add practice capabilities to our Chicago office with the addition of **Anthony L. Schumann** and expand the firm's ever-increasing commercial litigation practice. He has more than 30 years of experience in commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense with extensive knowledge in assisting companies with internal investigations and compliance issues. Two attorneys have joined the workers' compensation group, **Dana T. Benedetti** and **Michael R. Trybalski**. **Staci R. Rhoads** has joined the firm's financial services practice group.

Medical Malpractice Group – QPWB Welcomes Two Partners and Two Associates

Mary C. O'Connor is a partner focusing in the areas of medical malpractice defense and negligence actions. She has specialized in trials and defense since 1976. O'Connor has spent her law career resolving complex and critical disputes in the defense of physicians, hospitals, and health care providers on a wide range of casualty, product liability, and professional negligence on behalf of major insurers and self-insureds in actions often involving multimillion-dollar damage requests. In her litigation practice, she has argued before both, the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Courts on a myriad of representations involving significant liability claims. She has served as lead in-house counsel on trial advocacy programs and partners with business-and-insured clients to implement programs designed to minimize liability exposure.

O'Connor received her J.D. in 1976 from Northwestern University School of Law and graduated with a B.A. *cum laude* from the University of Illinois in 1973. She began her law career as lead trial attorney in the Cook County State Attorney's Office where she became one of the first women conducting Felony Review. During the following 30 years, she was lead counsel and supervising litigation partner with two large Chicago

(more)

law firms specializing in insurance litigation, where she maintained her practice focused in the areas of medical practice and negligence claims.

She is a member of the trial bar of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and is admitted in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

O'Connor has received an AV® Preeminent™ rating from Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory and is ranked in Illinois 2013 *Super Lawyers*.

[Laura G. Postilion](#) is a partner focusing in medical malpractice defense. She has over 20 years of trial and appellate experience managing complex medical negligence litigation and has represented hospitals, physicians and healthcare providers in various medical negligence trials.

Postilion secured a defense verdict for a healthcare institution on allegations of medical negligence involving a \$40 million claim and has successfully prosecuted motions leading to the dismissal of claims brought against physicians and healthcare providers.

She writes frequently for industry publications and has lectured on healthcare litigation topics at various Chicago area hospitals. Postilion is licensed to practice law in Illinois and Nevada and is admitted in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She earned her J.D. in 1994 from The John Marshall Law School and B.A. *cum laude* in 1989 from Loyola University Chicago.

[Matthew R. Hess](#) is an associate concentrating in the defense of medical malpractice claims. He has significant experience at the trial and appellate levels in the representation of hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, and healthcare providers. Hess serves as second chair on cases that proceed to trial. He manages all aspects of medical negligence cases from pretrial discovery through post-trial procedures and appeals.

Hess is licensed to practice law in Illinois and is admitted in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He earned his J.D. in 2003 from Chicago-Kent College of Law and B.A. in 2000 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

[Kelly A. Pachis](#) is an associate concentrating in medical malpractice claims involving hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, dentists and healthcare providers. Pachis handles all aspects of case management and is involved in all forms of discovery and development of case strategy.

Pachis is licensed to practice law in Illinois and is admitted in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She earned her J.D. in 2011 from The John Marshall Law School and B.A., with honors, from the University of Iowa in 2008.

Commercial Litigation, White Collar Criminal Defense



Anthony L. Schumann is a partner with extensive experience in commercial litigation, employment law, government liability, and white collar criminal defense. For over 30 years he has represented corporate, governmental and individual clients in state and federal courts throughout the litigation process. He has extensive experience assisting companies with internal investigations and compliance issues. Schumann has received an AV®-rating from Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory and is listed in *Illinois Super Lawyers* magazine. He is admitted to practice in Illinois, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He received his J.D. in 1984 from Southern University Law Center and B.A. from Augustana College in 1981. Schumann is an advisory board member of Legal Prep Charter Academy.

Workers' Compensation Defense Group – QPWB Welcomes Two Associates



Dana T. Benedetti is an associate and concentrates in the defense of workers' compensation claims on behalf of employers, self-insured employers and their insurance carriers. She received her J.D. in May 2014 from The John Marshall Law School and B.A. *summa cum laude* from Purdue University in 2011. During law school, she served on the *Journal of Information Technology & Privacy Law* Honors Editorial Board. Benedetti is licensed to practice law in Illinois.



Michael R. Trybalski is an associate and focuses his practice in workers' compensation and general liability claims on behalf of employers and insurance carriers. He received his J.D. *cum laude* from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 2013 and B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 2008. Trybalski is admitted to practice law in Illinois.

(more)

Financial Services Practice Group



Staci R. Rhoads has joined the firm as an associate in the Financial Services Practice. She focuses on real estate contracts and closings, condominium law, landlord/tenant issues, governmental code violations and commercial transactions. She also handles real estate litigation pertaining to sales and purchase agreements. Rhoads represents condominium and homeowners association and their directors and officers in disputes arising out of alleged violations of fiduciary duties, breach of contract and other types of allegation stemming from this area of law. She earned her J.D. in 2004 from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California and B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign in 2001. She is licensed to practice law in Illinois.

In a statement from the firm's General Counsel and Managing Partner of the Chicago office Debbie Riley said: "The Chicago office celebrated its third anniversary in November and we are pleased with our diversified growth. The firm opened its doors with a practice anchored in the health care defense field. The new healthcare practice group provides regional depth and compliments the firm's national footprint in the medical defense arena. We have strengthened our commercial litigation practice with the addition of Mr. Schumann and have added white collar criminal defense and internal investigations to our practice offerings in Chicago. Likewise, we continue to be thrilled with our workers' compensation team which has had phenomenal growth. Another growing area for the firm nationally is our financial practices group; and in this area, Ms. Rhoads' experience in real estate will be extremely valuable to our team and to our clients.

We are poised for greater growth and are looking for new office space to bring efficiency to our regional footprint while increasing our immediate capacity for headcount growth."

#

About QPWB:

Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. is a full-service business law firm with more than 300 lawyers collaborating across major practice areas in 18 offices located throughout the United States and abroad. More information about QPWB is available at: www.qpwblaw.com

(more)