Eric C. Rubenstein

Douglas A. Cooper

Jeffrey M. Schlossberg

# SMART COUNSEL STRAIGHT TALK

The latest on the legal front from Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.

#### Eric Rubenstein Represents Lender in \$18+ Million Acquisition of Portion of Landmark Verizon Building in Lower Manhattan

## Real Estate co-chair Rubenstein oversees complex deal completed in less than two weeks

- Ruskin Moscou Faltischek represented Stairway Capital, a prominent hedge fund focused on real estate opportunities, acquisitions and financings in the high-profile transaction
- Stairway was co-lender along with G4 Capital Partners, a leading real estate opportunity fund
- The 19-story Art Deco building, built in the early '30s, is considered one of the plum real estate locations in highly desirable Chelsea
- Verizon will keep the lower floors for business operations; upper floors will be developed as luxury condos
- The conversion from commercial-only to mixed-use status, as well as sale lease-back aspects of transaction, made it unusually complicated
- Deal's complexity was compounded by the multi-lender structure and a "time is of the essence" year-end deadline
- As a result of the successful completion of the deal, Stairway, a longstanding RMF client, will now be well positioned to execute its long-term business objectives

### Douglas Cooper Wins Reversal of Denial of Long-Term Disability Benefits on Behalf of Ailing Client

Cooper, in concert with Employment Law practice chair Jeffrey Schlossberg, has repeatedly achieved reversal of denied disability benefits on appeal

- RMF client, suffering from a progressive neurological disorder, found it impossible to continue working at her position with a major financial organization
- She applied for long-term disability benefits, which her insurance company subsequently denied
- In rendering its decision, the insurance company claimed she was able to continue working since hers was primarily a "desk job"
- RMF engaged the services of a neurologist specializing in the clients' illness; by carefully analyzing the medical issues and demonstrating the complexities of the disease, RMF and the physician convincingly established that the illness in fact compromised the clients' ability to perform her work
- As a result, the insurance carrier reversed its decision and awarded RMF client long-term disability benefits

### Jeffrey Schlossberg Garners Significant Victory For Medical Practice Accused of Misclassifying Former Employee

Schlossberg, chair of Employment Law practice, ably aided by RMF attorney Kimberly Malerba

- A former office manager at a medical practice in Queens sued her employer in Federal Court, claiming she was due overtime compensation because she had been misclassified as an exempt employee for years
- During an exhaustive discovery process, Schlossberg analyzed the plaintiff's job duties to determine whether the former employee in fact met the complex criteria for exemption
- Through skillful deposition, Schlossberg gained key admissions from the plaintiff that supported the client's assertion of her exempt status
- Prior to trial, RMF made a motion for summary judgment
- In its ruling, the Court dismissed the claim in its entirety and upheld our client's contention that the employee was in fact exempt
- As a result, RMF client was saved from a lengthy, costly trial and possible liability that could have exceeded \$250,000

