

# Hodgson Russ Delivers Knowledgeable Legal Assistance

From relocation advice to tax and estate planning, Hodgson Russ provides clients in Palm Beach County and across the state with a wide range of highly professional legal services. "For decades, individuals and businesses throughout Florida have relied on Hodgson Russ for knowledgeable advice in creating wealth, protecting wealth or transferring wealth," said Paul R. Comeau, chair of the New York-based firm, which was established in 1817 and is one of the nation's oldest law firms.

## S P O T L I G H T

Today, Hodgson Russ has eight offices in the United States and Canada with 240 attorneys who work together in multidisciplinary teams to serve the often-complex needs of their clients. "What differentiates our firm is the culture of teamwork, cooperation and client service," Comeau said. "We set very high standards and strive to deliver the highest quality service in every engagement."

Hodgson Russ has served Florida from its Boca Raton office since the mid-1980s, and last year opened a second local office in the Town of Palm Beach. "We have assisted many clients, including public companies, business executives and professionals who have relocated to Florida," Comeau said. "Our firm has a national

reputation in tax planning, trusts and estates, and has assisted many new residents who have moved from high-tax jurisdictions to Florida."

Florida managing partner James M. Hankins says the major areas in which Hodgson Russ' attorneys serve Florida clients are real estate, corporate transactions, securities, banking, labor and employment, family law and complex litigation. "We have an active practice in all these fields," he noted. In real estate, for instance, Hodgson Russ represents property owners, developers, builders and tenants in transactions and litigation. "We build a team of experts from throughout our firm to focus on a real estate project, and use collaborative technology to pool our skills and work seamlessly together," he said.

In Boca Raton, partner Yueh-Mei Kim Nutter specializes in family and marital law as well as business litigation ranging from real estate to corporate securities disputes. "Our experience includes lawsuits involving construction defects and country club issues, such as developer turnover to a homeowner association," she noted.

Another of Hodgson Russ' specialties is its cross-border practice with Canada, supported by the firm's offices in Toronto and New York. As one of the few U.S. law firms with a physical presence in Canada, Hodgson Russ assists Canadian businesses and individuals with interests in Florida and other states. "We do a lot of Canadian real estate work," Hankins said, "because it takes a specialized structure for a Canadian to acquire property in the U.S. without creating a significant estate tax problem."

Partner Paul E. Roman brings a strong background in tax law to his estate planning practice. "We are familiar with asset protection and wealth transfer plans, and we help structure foundations and family trusts to be fully compliant with all regulations," he said. As Hankins said, "Our attorneys are leaders in the legal profession and we are committed to making a difference for our clients and our community."



Left to right: James M. Hankins, Florida offices managing partner; Gary M. Schober, president and CEO; Paul R. Comeau, chair