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RIFKIN, WEINER, LIVINGSTON, LEVITAN & SILVER, LLC

A POWERHOUSE MERGER OF TWO OF MARYLAND'S MOST RESPECTED LAW FIRMS



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Rifkin, Weiner, Livingston, Levitan & Silver, LLC

A Powerhouse Merger of Two of Maryland's Most Respected Law Firms

Newly renamed Rifkin, Weiner, Livingston, Levitan & Silver, LLC, the firm brings together some of Maryland's most experienced attorneys and a substantial national clientele that rivals firms many times its size.

"By any measure, Arnold Weiner and his talented colleagues are extraordinary litigators and first-class attorneys, who further strengthen our firm's quarter-century foundation," says Alan M. Rifkin, the firm's managing partner.

Prior to the merger, the firms had worked together on a variety of high-profile cases, including matters involving the Baltimore Orioles, the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network, and the Maryland Jockey Club.

Rifkin and Weiner both have a history of notable legal accomplishments. Rifkin served as counsel to former Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer before founding the firm in 1989 with Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Edgar Silver. Former Lieutenant Governor Mickey Steinberg and former senate budget chair Larry Levitan joined soon thereafter.

As Weiner praises: "Alan and the members of his firm are outstanding attorneys. They practice law like professional chess players—cognizant of moves deep into the game, blending the natural instincts of litigators with the talents of very sophisticated business lawyers. And the firm's government relations, procurement, land use, and employment law divisions are extremely well regarded."

Weiner is a well-known name in Maryland legal circles. He was lead defense counsel in the high-profile prosecutions of a sitting Maryland governor and a Baltimore City mayor. He has also won hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of his clients, including a then-record \$185 million result against a national accounting firm.

"The merger of our firms is a natural evolution," says Scott Livingston, who chairs the firm's state contracting and procurement division. "We have worked together seamlessly for years on a variety of complex matters, and we practice law in the same dedicated and strategic manner."

That analytical approach has proved successful in a number of well-publicized cases, including the firm's successful representation of the widow of a postal worker who died after being exposed to the anthrax letters that were mailed to the U.S. Congress in 2001. The firm is also leading a multi-state action against a major dishwasher manufacturer over an alleged design defect that poses serious danger to persons and property; and it is representing a worldwide class action against Hungary and the Hungarian railway for World War II crimes against humanity.

And on other side of the trial table, the firm has represented some of the nation's largest companies, such as Wal-Mart and Caesars Entertainment. Other divisions of the firm—like the government rela-

tions group—also list household names, including AOL, Amazon, FedEx, and AETNA; and, in the land use and procurement divisions, Faison and Balfour-Beatty, among others.

"That we represent some of the largest companies in the world, and private litigants on both sides of the trial table and in all facets of government, is directly attributable to the abilities and dedication of the attorneys in the firm," says Mike Johansen, the firm's administrative partner.

As Joel Rozner, head of the government relations division, notes: "Unlike some traditional law firms, here, entire divisions of the firm are routinely involved in every case. Our multifaceted and team-oriented approach has greatly benefited our clients."

"In all practice areas, we relish the opportunity to take on complex matters," explains Celeste Bruce, who co-chairs the litigation division. "Nothing is rote here. We have a saying—'One of these days we're going to do the same thing twice, but this is not that day.'"

Many of the firm's lawyers are rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell® and have received annual recognition by *Maryland Super Lawyers* and other publications. In addition, a number of the firm's attorneys have co-authored or edited prominent legal treatises, including Livingston, who authored the law review articles *Principles of Maryland Procurement Law* and *Fair Treatment for Contractors Doing Business with the State of Maryland*. Mike Berman co-edited the ABA-published *Managing E-Discovery and ESI: From Pre-Litigation Through Trial*. Chuck Fax co-authored *Discovery Problems and Their Solutions*, also published by the ABA; and Joyce Smithey, who chairs the firm's employment law division, is the co-editor of the *Maryland Rules Commentary*.

With offices in Bethesda, Annapolis, Upper Marlboro, and Baltimore, the firm connects the nation's capital with Maryland's commercial centers. "We pride ourselves on representing our clients wherever their matters arise, whether it's in the boardroom, government, or administrative hearing room, or in the courtroom," says Chip Reed, chair of the firm's zoning and land use division.

Weiner adds: "I knew the firm had a national clientele and a well-deserved reputation for handling complex matters in a dedicated and thorough manner—that's what I find so appealing about the firm, and it's also what I'm certain our clients find so attractive."

—Sean Stonefield



RIFKIN, WEINER, LIVINGSTON, LEVITAN & SILVER, LLC



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