

Foley Boosts Corporate Practice in Chicago

Foley & Lardner LLP announced that Lou Cohen and Elgie Sims Jr. have joined the firm's Business Law Department as of counsel in the Chicago office.

"We are thrilled to welcome Lou and Elgie. Together, they add unique transactional and public policy experience combined with a deep understanding of the Chicago market that will significantly enhance our offerings to clients," said Myles Berman, managing partner of Foley's Chicago office.

In a release, the firm said Cohen has led and handled high-profile real estate transactions for international and domestic lenders, developers, real estate investment trusts, public pension funds, pension fund advisors, insurance companies and governmental entities. He served as lead counsel for the owner and redeveloper of the Chicago Soho House Club, and represented the City of Atlanta in negotiations surrounding the development of the \$1.4 billion stadium for the Atlanta Falcons. His practice is focused on commercial real estate development, including acquisitions and dispositions, venture structuring and formation, leasing, lending, restructuring and workouts.

"Lou is an accomplished and well-known real estate attorney in Chicago and the Midwest. His ability to manage complex real estate transactions will be a great service to our institutional and other major real estate clients," said Fred Ridley, chair of Foley's Real Estate Practice.

Sims, who is currently the Illinois state representative for the 34th District, will focus on government affairs and municipal finance as a member of the firm's Government & Public Policy and Public Finance Practices. Sims has an

extensive background representing clients and spearheading complex legislative initiatives before various branches of federal, state and local governments. Several of his legislative accomplishments include passage of Illinois' film tax credit, which helped the film industry generate over \$330 million in spending in 2015, and changes to Illinois' nursing home reimbursement model. As state representative, he was the chief House sponsor of Senate Bill 1304, which established a clear policy and guidelines for police body-worn cameras and police reform initiatives. He currently serves as chairman of the Illinois House Judiciary Criminal Committee and a member of the Business and Occupational Licenses, Elementary & Secondary Education; Curriculum and Policies, Higher Education, Transportation, Regulation and Roads and Revenue and Finance Committees.

"As a lawyer and legislator, Elgie's knowledge of the intricacies behind local and state government policies will benefit a broad range of our clients, from Fortune 500 businesses to health care companies to non-profit organizations. We look forward to adding his Midwest expertise to our established national bench," said David Ralston, chair of Foley's Government & Public Policy Practice.

Prior to joining Foley, Cohen was a partner at Locke Lord.