

MIAMI — June 2006 — Six attorneys at the Florida law firm of Shutts & Bowen LLP have been named top lawyers in their fields by London-based Chambers & Partners in the latest edition of “Chambers USA: America’s Leading Business Lawyers.” The firm also was recognized in the 2006-2007 edition for excellence in the following practice areas: banking and finance, corporate/M&A (including Latin American investment), real estate, construction, and zoning/land use.

Since this prestigious U.K. publisher of legal guides began publishing rankings of U.S. law firms and lawyers in 2003, Shutts & Bowen’s financial services practice has achieved the guide’s highest possible ranking every year. In addition, Shutts & Bowen Chairman Bowman Brown has been ranked number one in Florida in the banking and finance practice area since the inception of the U.S. guide.

The six attorneys who were included in the latest guide to the nation’s top lawyers are: Shutts & Bowen Chairman Bowman Brown in Miami (banking and finance), partner Kevin Cowan in Miami (real estate), partner John H. Dannecker in Orlando (construction), partner Luis de Armas in Miami (corporate/M&A and Latin American investment), partner Michael J. Grindstaff in Orlando (real estate: zoning and land use), and partner Rod Jones in Orlando (banking and finance).

To determine the rankings, Chambers and Partners conducts independent research that includes more than 10,000 telephone interviews over an eight-month period. A team of 40 full-time researchers interviewed business people and lawyers throughout the country to assess the attorneys’ and firm’s legal abilities, professional conduct, client service, diligence, commitment and other qualities most valued by clients.

Following is a brief description of the Shutts & Bowen attorneys who received top recognition from Chambers and Partners:

Miami —

BOWMAN BROWN, Chairman of the firm’s Executive Committee and Financial Services Practice Group. Mr. Brown has an extensive practice representing domestic, interstate and international banks, broker/dealers and insurance companies, and drafting laws and regulations addressing the development of international banking and insurance in Florida. Chambers and Partners described Mr. Brown as the “father of banking law” who displays a “big-picture sense and...creativity” in both domestic and cross-border transactions. The guide notes that Mr. Brown was in the spotlight recently when he counseled state legislators drafting Florida’s new international insurance law, which allows foreign insurance companies to sell life insurance and annuity contracts from Florida to non-U.S. residents. Mr. Brown practices in the firm’s Miami office and is a resident of Coral Gables.

KEVIN D. COWAN, Co-Chairman of Shutts & Bowen’s Miami Real Estate Department. Mr. Cowan’s experience ranges from downtown office or anchor/tenant retail leases to mega yacht marina/mixed-use hotel/retail developments, commercial ground leases and related financing, and large-scale condominium developments. In addition, he represents institutions in connection with the sale or acquisition of office complexes. Chambers and Partners quotes clients who note that Mr. Cowan is “always a good choice.” Mr. Cowan practices in the firm’s Miami office and is a resident of Miami Beach.

LUIS A. DE ARMAS, a partner in the Miami office, is Chairman of the Corporate Transactions Practice Group. A resident of Pinecrest Mr. de Armas was recognized by Chambers and Partners for his experience with cross-border capital markets and mergers-and-acquisition work, both outbound and inbound. The guide notes that the firm has handled international work long before it was fashionable to go international. According to the guide, Mr. de Armas “has the wonderful capability of not allowing details to slip away from him.”

Orlando —

JOHN H. DANNECKER, a partner in the Orlando office, heads the Construction Litigation Team for Shutts & Bowen in Orlando. The Chambers and Partners guide said Mr. Dannecker is able to “balance force and diplomacy in working toward a resolution.” It also noted that his experience in construction defect and delay litigation, including mold and mildew-related disputes, is “widely commended.” A resident of Winter Springs in Seminole County, Mr. Dannecker is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America as well as a member of both Associated General Contractors and Associated Builders & Contractors.

MICHAEL J. GRINDSTAFF chairs the Orlando office’s Real Estate Practice Group. Chambers and Partners cites Mr. Grindstaff’s “in-depth experience and knowledge” in zoning and land use matters. His real estate and land use practice focuses on the acquisition, zoning, permitting, development and sale of retail shopping centers, mixed-use developments, residential subdivisions, multi-family apartment complexes, and office buildings. In addition, Mr. Grindstaff was appointed by U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) as statewide Chairman of the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), which reviews applicants eligible to serve as United States district court judges, U.S. attorneys or U.S. Marshals. Mr. Grindstaff resides in Winter Park, Fla.,

ROD JONES is a partner in the Financial Services Practice Group in Orlando. A Winter Park resident, he concentrates on bank regulatory matters, including *de novo* bank formations, conversions, mergers and acquisitions, and bank holding company formations, with a particular emphasis on issues affecting community banks. Before joining Shutts & Bowen, he was the Director of the Division of Banking of the Florida Department of Banking and Finance from 1984 to 1989, where he was responsible for licensing and supervising more than 500 state-chartered financial institutions in Florida and reviewing applications to organize more than 100 new banks. The Chambers and Partners guide said Mr. Jones “masters the arts of the possible” with his “problem-solving skills.”