



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cohen Seglias Adds Five Lawyers to Pittsburgh Office**

**PITTSBURGH** – Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC announced today that in a lateral move effective January 1, 2010, five lawyers have joined its Pittsburgh office from three separate law firms. This addition doubles the size of the firm’s downtown Pittsburgh office and substantially increases the firm’s presence in Pittsburgh. Cohen Seglias is welcoming Manning J. “Jim” O’Connor II, Patrick Sorek and Mark Stadler as partners, and Douglas C. Hart and Christopher A. Cafardi as associates. Prior to joining Cohen Seglias, O’Connor and Sorek were partners with Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, Stadler was a director at Cohen & Grigsby, Hart was an associate with Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl, and Cafardi was an associate at Pepper Hamilton LLP.

“With this move, we have enhanced our commercial litigation capabilities and more than doubled the size of our Pittsburgh office,” said Roy Cohen, Cohen Seglias’ Founder and President. “This core group of lawyers joining us accelerates our growth strategy and reaffirms our continued commitment to client service.”

“We could not be more pleased to be joining Cohen Seglias,” said Jim O’Connor. “The firm’s commitment to excellence and leadership and to the further growth of the Commercial Litigation Practice will be tremendous assets for our clients.”

Stadler agrees. “Cohen Seglias is on an aggressive growth path, which is one of the key factors that attracted me to the firm, and I am delighted to join their team” he said. “The firm’s national reach will provide a great platform for my practice.”

Brief biographies of the new Cohen Seglias lawyers in Pittsburgh follow:

**Manning J. “Jim” O’Connor II**, a partner in the Commercial Litigation Group, will assume duties as Managing Partner of the Pittsburgh office. An experienced trial lawyer, Jim counsels and represents clients in a wide variety of matters with special emphasis in the areas of commercial disputes, employment issues and healthcare litigation. Jim received both his J.D. and his bachelor’s degree, *cum laude*, from Duquesne University and is an adjunct member of the faculty at Duquesne University School of Law.

**Patrick Sorek**, a partner in the Commercial Litigation Group, focuses his practice in commercial litigation, and has considerable experience in civil rights and employment cases. Patrick formerly served as a trial lawyer with the Civil Division of the United States Justice Department in Washington D.C., where he represented the White House, NASA, the FBI, the CIA, and other Federal Agencies in Federal District Court litigation. He also served as senior law clerk to former Federal District Court Judge Robert J. Cindrich, for whom he drafted over 500 opinions covering all areas of the law. Patrick earned his J.D. from University of Pittsburgh School of Law, an LL.M. from Brussels Free University, and a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University. He currently serves as President of the Federal Bar Association, Western Pennsylvania Chapter and is an adjunct faculty member at Duquesne University School of Law.

**Mark Stadler**, a partner in the Business Law Group, focuses his practice primarily on health care providers and related business transactions. Mark advises and represents for profit and non-profit businesses in commercial transactions and litigation, including mergers, acquisitions, corporate structuring and reorganization, managed care issues, licensure and regulatory compliance, tax exempt issues and antitrust compliance. Mark received his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor’s degree from Yale University. In law school he was a Law Review member and an editor of *Journal of Law and Commerce*.

**Douglas C. Hart**, an associate in the Commercial Litigation Group, maintains a general litigation practice, focusing on commercial litigation as well as employment and discrimination matters. Doug is a Certified Public Accountant and is an adjunct faculty member of the Duquesne University School of Business. In 2008, he was named as a Pennsylvania “Rising Star” attorney by *Law & Politics Magazine* and *Philadelphia Magazine*. Doug received his J.D. from Duquesne University, where he was a member of the Law Review. He received an M.B.A. from Duquesne University and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Christopher A. Cafardi**, an associate in the Construction Litigation Group, focuses his practice on construction litigation issues, representing owners and contractors in a variety of jurisdictions. Chris received both his J.D. and his bachelor’s degree, from Duquesne University. While in law school, he was active in the Moot Court program and competed in several national Moot Court competitions. Additionally, Chris was the recipient of the CALI Award for Excellence in Legal Research & Writing, Legal Process and Procedure, Trial Advocacy and Criminal Law and Procedure during his time at Duquesne.

### **About Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC**

*Founded in 1988, Cohen Seglias is a Mid-Atlantic law firm with more than 55 lawyers in seven offices providing client service on a national basis in the areas of Construction, Commercial Litigation, Federal Contracting, Real Estate, Labor & Employment, Creditors’ Rights and Corporate and Commercial Transactions. In addition to Pennsylvania, the firm has offices in Delaware, New Jersey and West Virginia. For more information, please visit [www.cohenseglias.com](http://www.cohenseglias.com)*