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FIRM BUCKS INDUSTRY TREND, RECOGNIZED IN CHICAGO LAW BULLETIN



Jeffrey D. Warren

There has been no shortage of bad news about the serious problems law firms have faced recently, and the painful measures they have implemented to survive, including large-scale layoffs and withdrawals or postponements of employment offers to law school graduates. Across the industry, the number of attorneys at firms is down and billable hours are down. The go-go era of law firm mega-growth came to

a screeching halt as the country entered its worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

According to the Chicago Law Bulletin, the Chicago legal community's daily newspaper, only three law firms with

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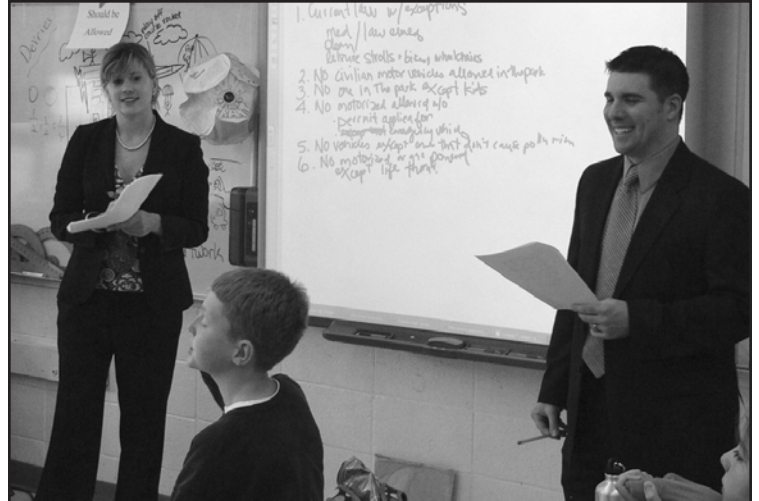
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RELIGIOUS & NOT-FOR-PROFIT PRACTICE HOSTS INTERNET GURU DAVID W. MAHER Program first in a series serving directors and executives

Don't say anything bad about Al Gore around the founders and engineers of the Internet," David W. Maher joked, referring to Gore's role in the development of the Internet, "or you will be excommunicated." According to Maher, Gore paved the way for key legislation and funding that has proved to be integral to today's Internet.

As a key player in the early development and governance

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Associates Teach Constitutional Rights to CPS Students

Associates Nora Couri, Andrew LeMar, Alex Marks and Steve Schuster volunteered at Chicago Public School's Decatur Elementary School as part of Law Week, which is a collaboration between the Chicago Bar

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BURKE, WARREN IS SOUS CHEF TO TOP CHEF

Bravo's reality show Top Chef winner Stephanie Izard recently opened her restaurant, "The Girl and the Goat," in Chicago's West Loop. The celebrity chef focuses on serving small plates with a focus on charcuterie, or cured meats.

The firm's Joe von Meier represents Brian Goldberg, Barry Howard and Marc



Joe von Meier


Lifshin of LG Development Group, who built the restaurant with Rob Katz and Kevin Boehm of Boka Restaurant Group as well as James Geier of 555 Design.

The building at 809 W. Randolph features an Old World interior—the restaurant is converted from two storage facilities separated by a brick wall—and is one of the year's most exciting newcomers to Chicago's restaurant scene.



Pictured are LG Development's Brian Goldberg, Boka Restaurant Group's Rob Katz and Kevin Boehm and 555 Design's James Geier.

LG Development Group's construction portfolio largely consists of luxury residences in Lincoln Park and "The Girl and the Goat" is Goldberg and Lifshin's first major restaurant project. Katz and Boehm, who own culinary heavyweights such as "Boka," "Perennial" and "Landmark," are the owners.

For more information, please contact Joe von Meier at 312/840-7063 or jvonmeier@burkelaw.com. 

ASSOCIATES TEACH STUDENTS

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Association's Young Lawyers Society and the Constitutional Rights Foundation's "Edward J. Lewis II Lawyers in the Classroom Program." The program is designed to promote civic engagement and helps students understand the U.S. Constitution and the role of the court system to administer justice.

At Decatur Elementary, firm attorneys led an interactive lesson plan with two energetic sixth grade classes. Most importantly, they taught students what makes a "good law."

"Lawyers in the Classroom is a fantastic program," says associate Alex Marks.

"To be able to educate children about the Constitution and our legal system, while also inspiring future legal minds, is incredibly rewarding. I take great pride in my participation."

Over 650 attorneys currently volunteer in the program at 98 different schools in Illinois. For information, contact the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago, or Alex Marks at amarks@burkelaw.com or 312/840-7022.

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NEW FIRM ATTORNEY LAUNCHES "GREEN" PRACTICE

New attorney Peter Vitale becomes a member of our Corporate, Real Estate and newly launched Energy and Sustainability Group. His work will focus on sustainability, renewable energy and environmentally responsible business practices.

As an attorney and as a real estate developer, Peter works on matters involving debt and equity financing, governmental affairs, LEED construction and asset management. He has also created and managed sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives, including energy reduction strategies, recycling program implementation, green cleaning, water usage reduction strategies and other sustainable operational best practices.

The Energy and Sustainability Group focuses on environmentally responsible real estate development, energy efficiency initiatives, solar and wind energy development

and clean technology innovations. Strengthened by resources from the firm's Real Estate, Corporate, Litigation and Tax Advisory Services practices, the group has the transactional, legislative and regulatory expertise required to meet today's energy and sustainability needs.

Peter holds a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder Law School. He is also a LEED AP and holds the CCIM designation. Peter is licensed in Illinois and New Mexico.

For more information, contact Peter Vitale at 312/840-7129 or pvitale@burkelaw.com. 



Peter Vitale