

## HERRICK, FEINSTEIN LLP 2 Park Avenue New York, NY 10016

Media Contact: David Brooks, 212-592-5998 <u>dbrooks@herrick.com</u> Cell phone for emergencies: 973-495-5455

## HERRICK HONORED BY LEGAL 500, BASED ON VIEWS OF REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY INSIDERS, CLIENTS

\*\*\*

Second Consecutive Year Herrick, Feinstein Real Estate Partners Make the Grade; Schwartz, Grasso Receive Special Mention

NEW YORK -- The 2008 Edition of The Legal 500 United States, a United Kingdom-based law firm directory that ranks firms and individual attorneys by practice area, has ranked **Herrick**, **Feinstein**'s commercial real estate practice as one of New York's best and made special note of partners **Carl F. Schwartz**'s and **Laurie A. Grasso**'s work.

The Legal 500, known for its solid research and a methodology that excludes peer rankings in favor of rankings by clients, included **Herrick**, **Feinstein**'s real estate practice -- the largest of any law firm in New York City -- for the second consecutive year.

**Ms. Grasso**, at 35, made The Legal 500 for the first time. **Ms. Grasso** represents some of New York City's premier real estate development and acquisition companies. She counsels clients on acquisitions, financings, deal structurings, joint venture issues, zoning and land use matters, condominium and development issues. **Ms. Grasso** also concentrates her practice in all aspects of commercial finance and represents a number of financial institutions.

**Mr. Schwartz**, Chair of **Herrick**, **Feinstein**'s Real Estate Department, was named for the second time in as many years. **Mr. Schwartz** has more than 25 years of experience advising the real estate industry's leading developers and lenders in prominent acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures and strategic alliances.

"It's gratifying and quite an honor because, in effect, the industry is recognizing our work," **Ms. Grasso** said. "It is particularly satisfying to know that our commercial real estate clients -- and the real estate industry as a whole -- holds us in such high regard."

**Mr. Schwartz** said, "I am proud of our real estate department and the complex work we are doing. It is great to have our work validated and recognized by our clients."

The Legal 500 includes an array of responses from those clients surveyed, who heralded attorneys at the firm as the "most pleasant, generous and intelligent people in the business," and lauded their ability "to close a transaction in the most beneficial way." The publication cited the firm for its "remarkable work ethic" and "attention to detail provided by great technicians." The Legal 500 also noted that the firm "without exception exceeds expectations."

The prowess of **Herrick**, **Feinstein**'s real estate practice also prompted clients to state that "*few other firms meet, and none exceed, the overall experience of dealing with the firm*."

For more information on Herrick's real estate practice, please contact Carl F. Schwartz at 212-592-1416.