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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Second Annual Best of Chicago Reader Rankings from *The National Law Journal!* This program is designed to let you, The National Law Journal community, tell us which vendors and law schools are the best at what they do. Whether it was a crucial service or a time-saving product, there was a category for you to cast your vote on all important aspects to the practice of law. From data technology products and banking services to law firm marketing and legal research, NLJ's Best of Chicago Reader Rankings showcase the firms who prevailed among their competitors in providing you with the essentials to compete in today's legal market.

More than 1,200 readers cast votes for your favorite vendors in over 60 categories. Given the size and scope of the survey, and the time that it takes to complete it, your responses overwhelmed our expectations in this inaugural year. Lawyers and legal professionals alike rely heavily on these businesses and that is why we have dedicated a special supplement to highlight the successes of the best.

The Best of Chicago Reader Rankings was operated by The National Law Journal's sales and marketing teams via online ballot voting and compiling. Readers were notified of the ballot through direct emails, print and online advertisements, and social media updates across our parent company ALM's network of websites, including Law.com, NLJ.com and more. Our goal was to make the voting as inclusive as possible. The ballot consisted of 65 categories encompassing the areas of Technology, Research, Litigation Consulting, Accounting, Banking, Insurance, Financial Services, Litigation Support, Education, Law Firm Marketing & Communications, ADR & Mediation, and Recruiting & Staffing. For each category, we tried to present businesses fairly – presenting product specific options for categories surveying the best products, and the corporate entities for categories surveying "best vendors".

In total, over 450 businesses were listed on the official ballot and voters were also given the opportunity to write in any businesses not listed – nearly 120 businesses received votes via this write-in option.

Please note that we only allowed legitimate end-users from the Chicago-area U.S. legal community (attorneys and law students, paralegals, legal assistants, etc.) to vote. We took great pains to ensure that the voting was fair. Any ballot cast by non-legitimate end-users was disqualified and eliminated from the final tally.

I would like to extend a special thanks to The National Law Journal's sales, marketing and design teams, especially our Ad Production Manager, Sam Wong, who truly made this fantastic supplement come to fruition despite tight deadlines and last-minute changes.

Again, thanks for sharing your voice and votes. Your opinions are reflected on the pages that follow. If you do not see your favorite business recognized, please be sure to vote next year!

Warm Regards,

Scott Pierce
Publisher, *The National Law Journal & Legal Times*

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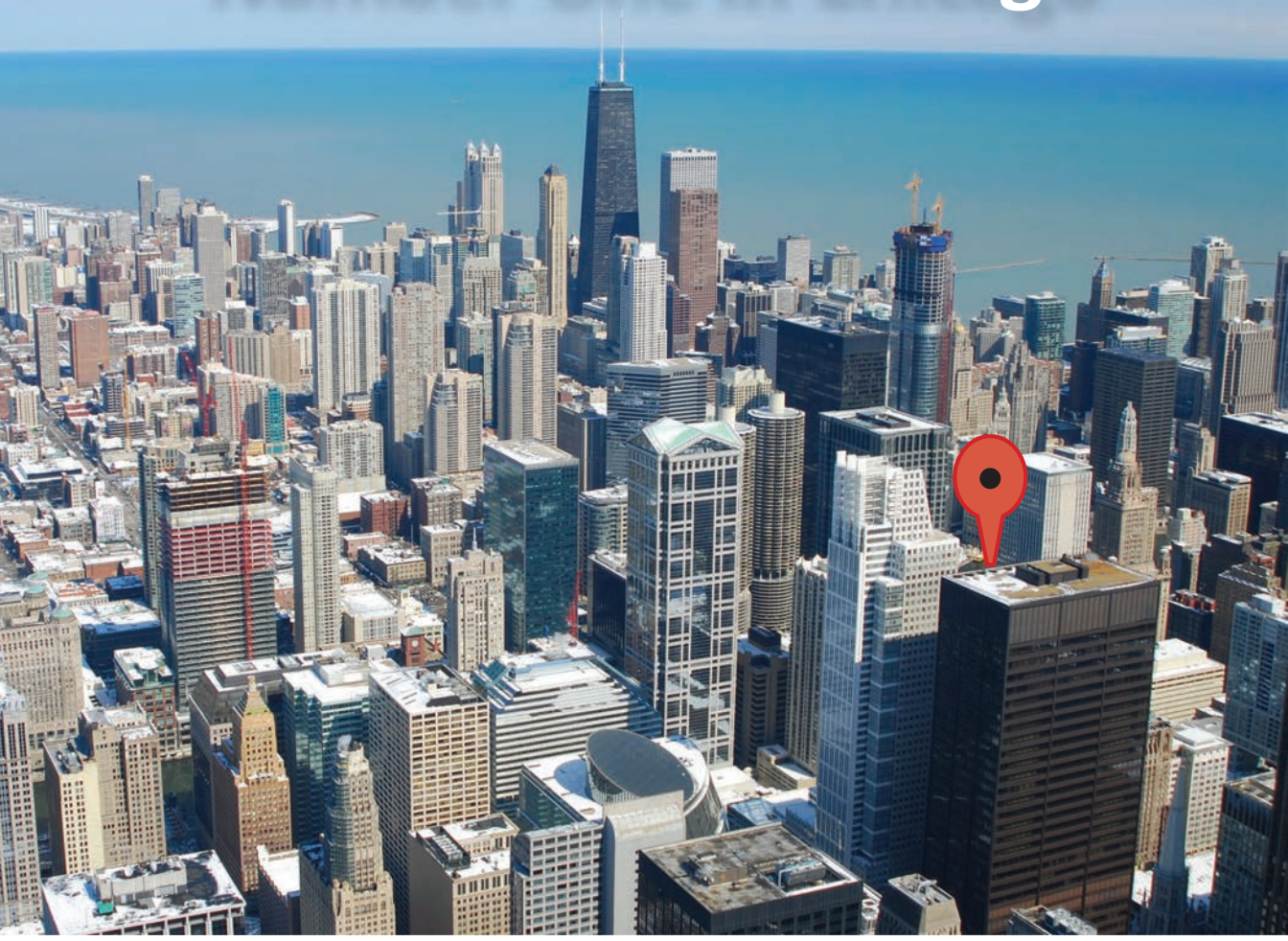

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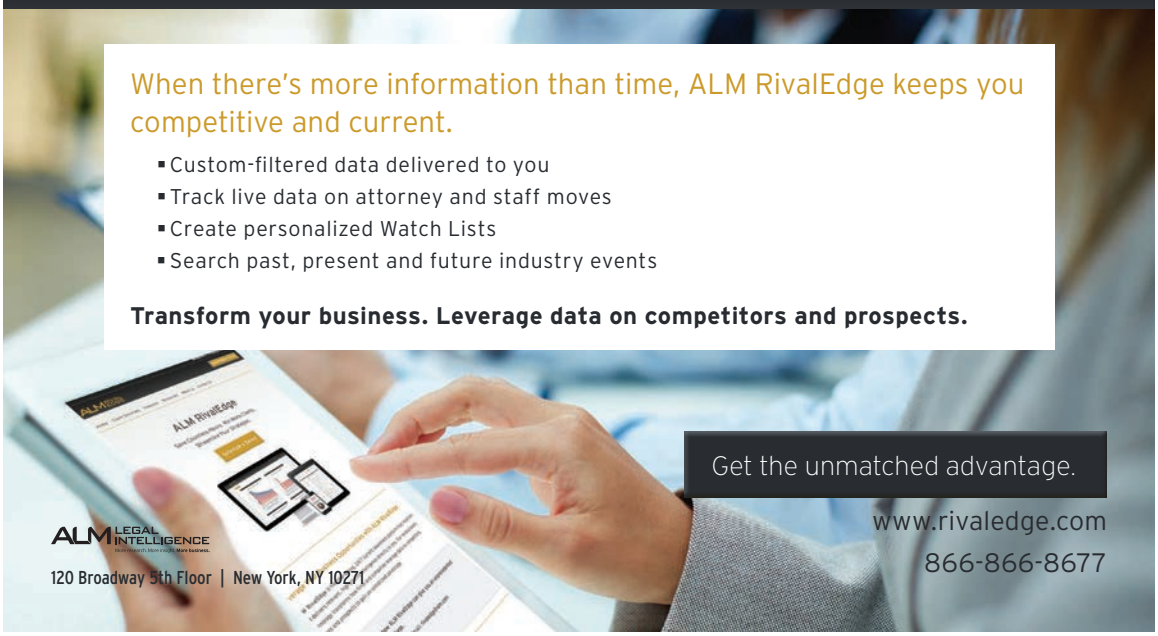

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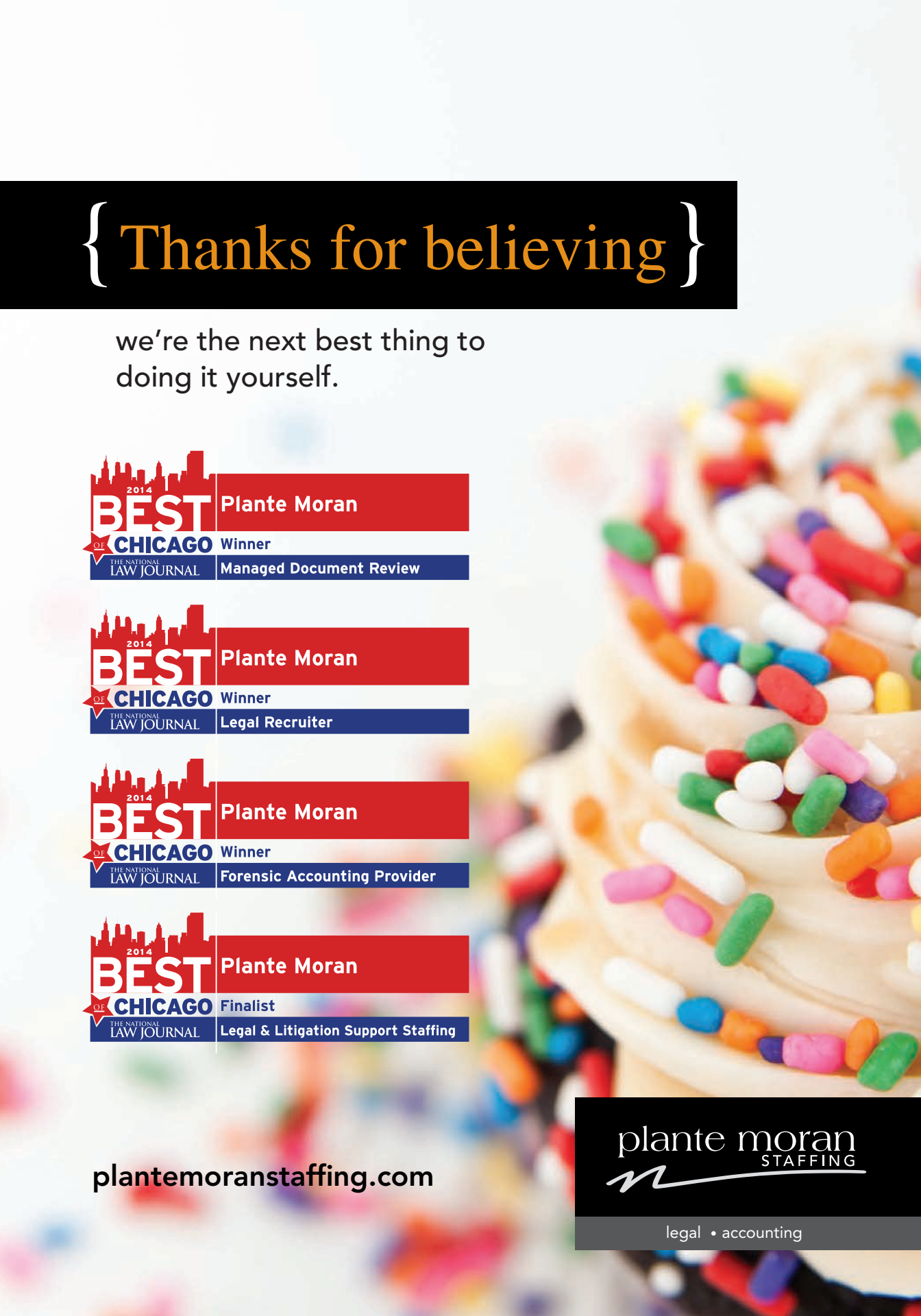

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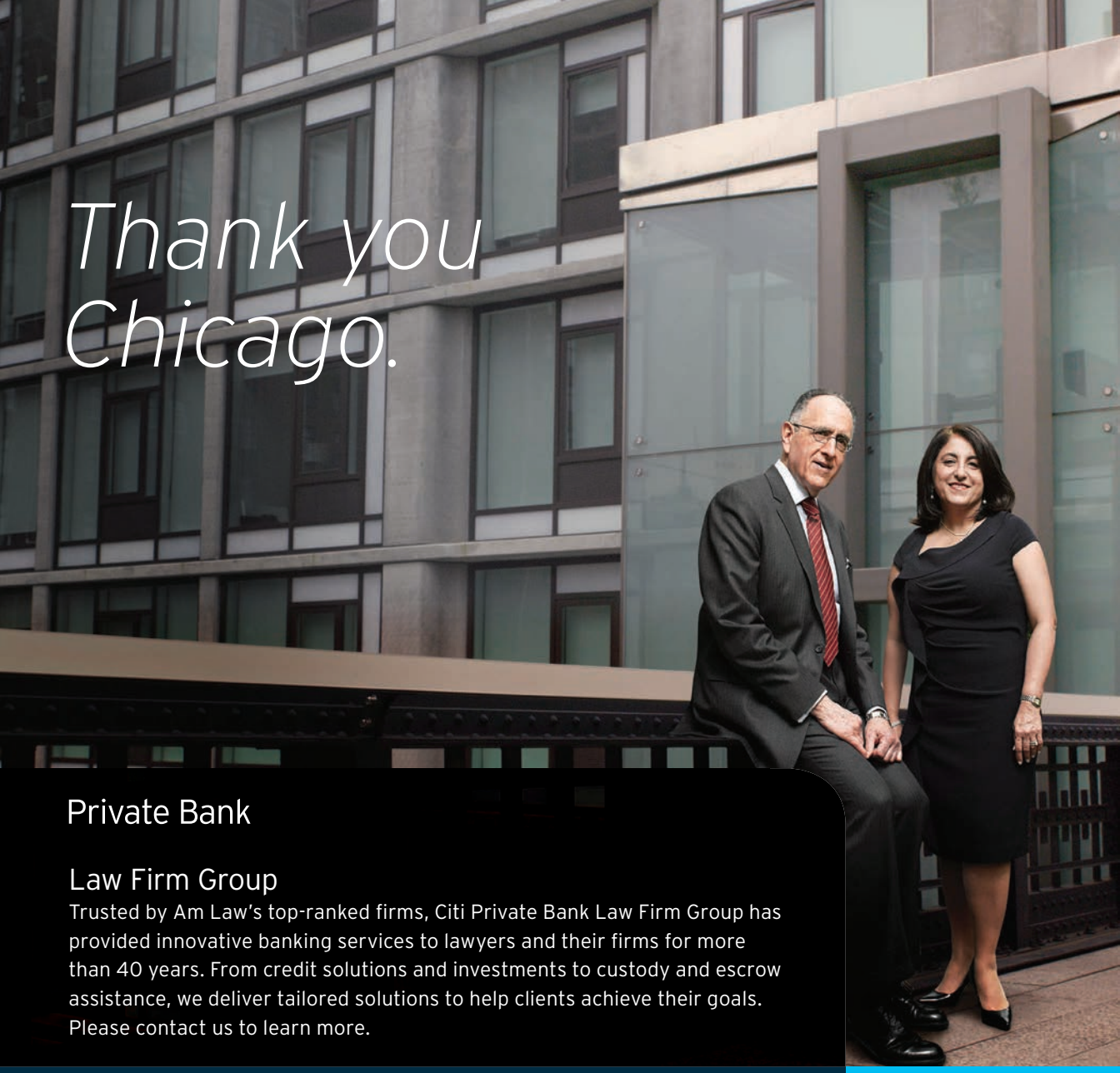

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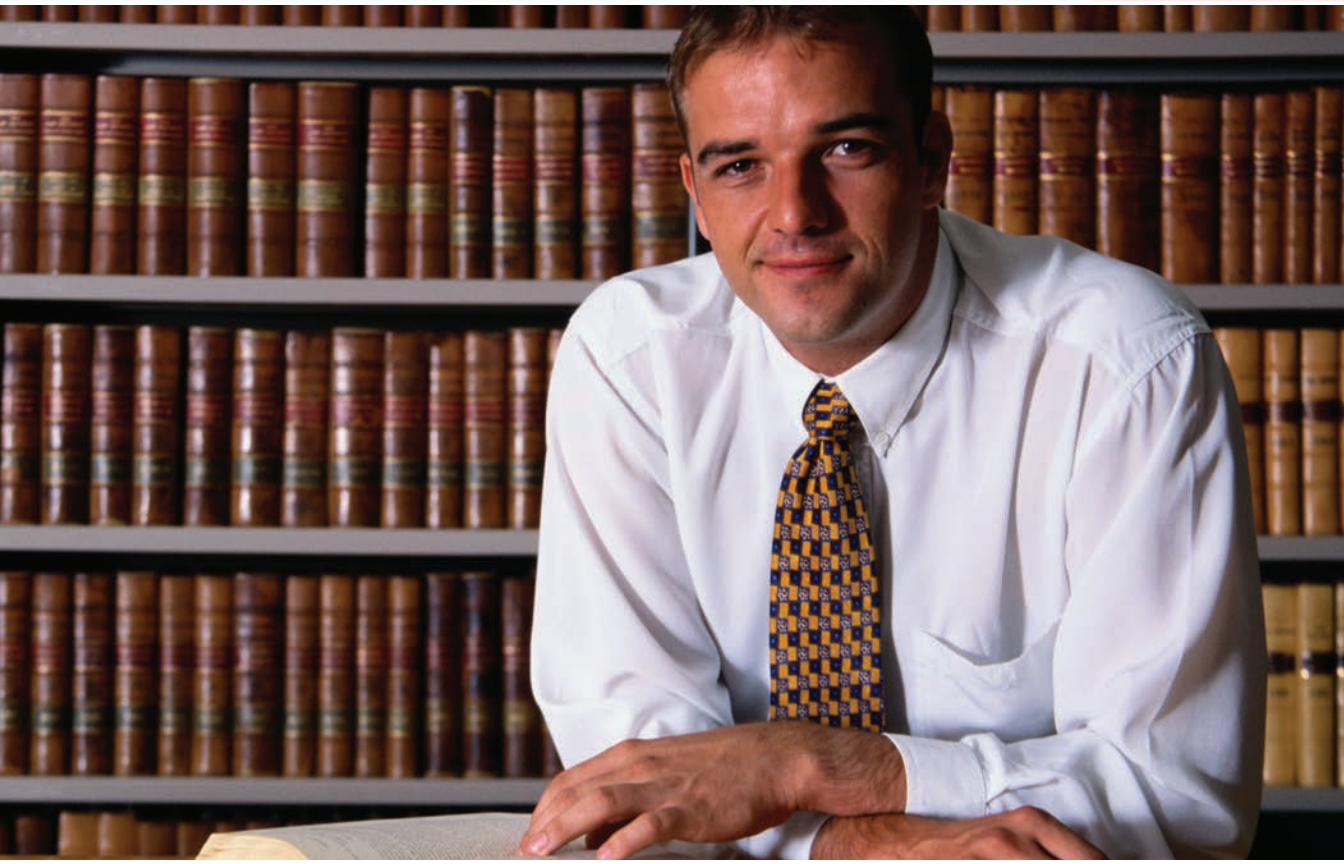

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