

## CHICAGO

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BCLP's Chicago office was established in 2001 and has seen substantial growth since early 2004. The office's attorneys assist clients on a wide variety of corporate legal needs. Lawyers in the Chicago office primarily practice in the areas of banking and finance, real estate, class actions, commercial litigation, labor and employment litigation, product liability, intellectual property, airport concessions, corporate governance and corporate transactions, commercial bankruptcy, restructuring and creditors' rights, environmental and energy, as well as international, Federal, and state and local tax matters.

## COMMUNITY

As community stewardship is an essential component of the work culture at BCLP, our Chicago attorneys and staff donate their time and resources to a wide range of civic and community organizations. Some of those organizations include: A Safe Haven Foundation, Chicago Youth Centers, Lawyers for the Creative Arts, Chicago Central Area Committee, CircEsteem, The Presbyterian Home, Chicago Symphony Orchestra Governing Board, Anti-Defamation League, American Theater Company, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Chicago Bar Foundation, Chicago Sinfonietta, Illinois Equal Justice Foundation Institute for Public Health and Water Research, Leadership Greater Chicago, METROsquash, Reach the World-Chicago, National Museum of Mexican Art and Old Town School of Folk Music, Quad Communities Development Corporation, Urban Prep Academies, and The Urban land Institute Foundation.

In addition to working with local non-profit organizations, Chicago employees also serve on the boards of area organizations, colleges and universities. Our civic involvement goes a long way toward making BCLP an integral part of the Chicago community.

## MEET THE TEAM



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## **The Sentencing Guidelines' New Zero-Point Offender Provision**

This article discusses Amendment 821 to the Sentencing Guidelines, which went into effect on November 1, 2023, adding a new “zero-point offender” adjustment. The white-collar bar lauded this amendment, which—at first blush—creates a new path to noncustodial sentences for prosecutions involving first-time offenders. Yet, as noted below, the “zero-point offender” adjustment may not have an all-too-significant impact in white-collar matters, particularly given the types of cases the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) routinely chooses to pursue. While there are, surely, instances where the new Guidelines amendment will have a material and favorable impact for defendants at sentencing, it is hardly a “get out of jail free” card, and defense counsel should be wary of viewing it as such.

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