

Spencer Crain Cabbage Healy & McNamara Receives Rare Law Firm Certification as a Women's Business Enterprise

New majority women-owned Dallas-based firm has a national client list

DALLAS, TX (August 19, 2008): Spencer Crain Cabbage Healy & McNamara pllc (Spencer Crain) has become one of the few law firms in the United States to be certified as a Women's Business Enterprise by the Women's Business Enterprise Alliance, a regional certifying partner of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC).

Spencer Crain, which began practice in Dallas on May 1, 2008, has four women among its five name partners and a national client list that includes Eli Lilly and Company, Greyhound Lines, Inc., J.C. Penney Company, Inc., and Temple-Inland, Inc., among others. Spencer Crain's founding shareholders are seasoned practitioners and highly regarded in their fields of litigation, labor and employment law, mediation and business immigration. The firm's WBENC certification reflects a meticulous review process designed to confirm that it is at least 51% owned, operated and controlled women. Certification is particularly significant for corporate counsel whose companies pursue public sector bids and contracts that require demonstration of gender diversity among company suppliers.

"Our firm was founded to embrace the combination of gender diversity, firm leadership and professional excellence that is often still a work in progress at too many top-tier law firms," states shareholder Jennifer Jackson Spencer. "The senior management of the largest corporations, like the owners of the newest entrepreneurial businesses, increasingly mirror gender diversity, and expect it of their law firms. According to the American Bar Association, women comprise 47% of total law school enrollment and 30% of the country's 1.1 million lawyers, yet they comprise only 17% of the partners at law firms."

Shareholders in Spencer Crain have been long-time partners at leading law firms, and are colleagues who approach their practices as a true team dedicated to client success. "We've custom built a firm around precisely what our clients want," notes shareholder Gayla Crain. "By bringing together the best practices of top tier firms, we can deliver what every client demands: efficient results, direct access to senior level attorneys, and billing arrangements that are aligned with their business goals. We have the legal experience and industry savvy that gets things done for any type of business client - from Fortune 100 corporations to mid-size and emerging public and privately held companies."

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council is the nation's largest third party certifier of businesses owned and operated by women in the United States. WBENC is a resource for the more than 700 US companies and government agencies that rely on WBENC's certification as an integral part of their supplier diversity programs. In addition to its WBE certification, Spencer Crain is also designated as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) and is currently in the process of seeking admission to the National Association of Women and Minority Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF).

“Spencer Crain’s extraordinary lawyers and exceptional practice depth are inseparable from our status as a majority woman-owned firm with a commitment to equal opportunity that seeks to realize the full professional potential of every attorney and staff member,” Jennifer Spencer asserts.

Spencer initially developed the concept of opening a smaller, majority female-owned firm led by partners from large law firms. A key notion was that a woman-owned practice would cater to flexible hours and related flexible billing approaches that corporate clients frequently seek. In addition, the smaller law firm would allow for lower overhead - symbolized by its leasing of a 12,000-square-foot space in a downtown Dallas office tower.

Gayla Crain believes that the firm’s equity shareholders have a common vision of a client-centered, practical approach that supports the marketplace need for a highly qualified, majority woman-owned firm. “We all have a passion for the law and are aggressive advocates for our clients, she adds.” “All of us were professionally linked in some way before coming to the firm, and one reason we will be successful is that our founding partners all share a similar commitment to our clients and professional accomplishment.”

About Spencer Crain

Spencer Crain Cabbage Healy & McNamara pllc is an employment, litigation and business immigration law firm located in Dallas, Texas. The firm provides nationwide counsel and representation in commercial and civil litigation, labor and employment law, mediation, and business immigration. Clients range from Fortune 500 corporations to mid-size public and privately held companies in a broad spectrum of industries. Spencer Crain is a majority woman-owned firm that is committed to diversity and the highest standards of excellence in the practice of law. www.spencercrain.com.

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