

Michael A. Santoro Joins RLR as Of Counsel to Start a State-of-the Art Artificial Intelligence Practice Area.

Rottenberg, Lipman Rich, P.C.

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March 26, 2025—New York, New York

Michael A. Santoro has joined Rottenberg Lipman Rich, P.C. (“RLR”) as Of Counsel to start a state-of-the-art Practice Area in Artificial Intelligence (“AI”).

“We are delighted to welcome Michael to the RLR team to start the firm’s AI Practice Area. Michael combines deep experience in corporate and transactional law with nearly a decade of experience with established technology companies and start-ups in Silicon Valley,” said Mark M. Rottenberg of RLR. “We are at the dawn of the AI era in business and the practice of law. Michael’s AI Practice fits nicely within RLR’s practice and offers our clients access to a wide range of legal services related to AI,” said Harry W. Lipman of RLR.

Michael added: “I am excited to join RLR, one of the leading boutique New York Metropolitan Area law firms, to establish a state-of-the-art AI Practice Area. In addition to traditional transactional and corporate law, the goal of my practice is to help clients navigate the brave new world of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other technologies such as augmented reality and cloud computing. Technology is the future of data management and regulatory compliance. My approach is to work with cutting edge AI companies to provide reliable and cost-efficient services to clients. It is especially important for small to medium-sized companies to find cost-efficient solutions to the myriad compliance issues they face. For example, I advise clients regarding compliance with New York City’s ‘s AI Bias Audit Law (Local Law 144), GDPR, HIPAA, and the recently passed European AI Act. I also offer cost-effective certification for ISO 27001, ISO 42002, well as B-Corp certification and compliance. The first step for companies new to AI is to discover whether and how these various compliance issues and certification opportunities might apply to them.”

New and existing clients are invited to contact Michael to learn more about RLR’s AI Practice and discuss potential areas of engagement and representation.

Michael's email address msantoro@rlrpclaw.com and his firm extension is Ext. 280. His cell phone number 917-589-8193.

Christopher Robinson: “Art Commission Agreements and VARA Moral Rights”.

January 16, 2024

Christopher Robinson published an article entitled “Art Commission Agreements and VARA Moral Rights” in the American Bar Association publication entitled *Landslide* linked here *Landslide* December/January 2024 digital issue. The article includes an in-depth discussion of the Second Circuit's recent controversial decision in *Kerson v. Vermont Law School, Inc.*“

Christopher Robinson assisted his client in the unique commission of a work of art for the three-panel nose cone of a Blue Origin rocket.

Rottenberg Lipman Rich attorney Christopher Robinson assisted his client, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery of Chicago and Paris, to negotiate a truly unique project for gallery artist Amoako Boafo – the commission of an original work of art for the three-panel nose cone of a Blue Origin rocket. <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/amoako-bofo-to-send-triptych-into-space-on-jef-f-bezos-s-blue-origin-rocket>. “This was a first for me,” commented Chris. “You never know where art law will take you.”

Christopher Robinson will be presenting: What Lawyers Need to Know About the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA).

Christopher Robinson, of counsel at Rottenberg Lipman Rich PC, will be presenting on April 30 at the Federal Bar Association's annual Art Law and Litigation conference on *Street Art and Real Property: What Lawyers Need to Know About the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA)*. The virtual panel, which runs from 2.30 to 3.30, will explain what rights VARA gives street artists and how they may impact building owners and developers. Chris will discuss the recent *5Pointz* case in which damages of \$6.75 million plus attorneys fees were awarded to a group of artists for the destruction of their artwork. Philippa Leongard, Deputy Director of the Kernochan Center for Law, Media and the Arts at Columbia Law School, will discuss the cases that have arisen in *5Pointz*' wake.

Chris Robinson's practice focuses on art law and intellectual property. He was co-counsel for the plaintiffs in the *5Pointz* case before the Second Circuit.

Mark S. Helweil named a member of Rottenberg Lipman Rich

Rottenberg Lipman Rich, P.C. is delighted to announce that Mark S. Helweil (mhelweil@rlrpclaw.com), formerly Of Counsel to the firm for 27 years, has become a member of the firm.

New Jersey Federal Court grants RLR's motion to dismiss contract and tort claims

On February 29, 2020, Judge Michael A. Shipp of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey granted the motion of our client, Newport Group Inc., to dismiss the breach of contract and negligence action against it for failure to state...

Ninja Academy to open first Manhattan location

RLR attorneys, Charles Rich, the head of the real estate practice and Larry Rose, of counsel, successfully represented Nationwide Management Corp in a lease for approximately 5,800 square feet of retail...

American Institute for Conservation (AIC) lead article by Chris Robinson

Chris Robinson from the firm's Art Law group recently published the lead article in the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) newsletter on the impact...

Brian Ross Investigates — Art Expert Chris Robinson

Christopher Robinson, Of Counsel, was featured on the recent episode of Brian Ross Investigates on the Law & Crime Network discussing the famous theft of works of art from the Isabella...