



Nationally Recognized Franchise and Commercial Litigation
Attorney
Carmen D. Caruso Joins Stahl Cowen

CHICAGO, IL- July 21, 2008 ---Carmen D. Caruso, a nationally known franchise and commercial litigation attorney has joined Stahl Cowen Crowley Addis LLC as a partner. Caruso led the Franchise & Distribution practice at Schwartz Cooper Chartered, until that firm joined with Dykema Gossett, headquartered in Detroit earlier this month.

In April 2008, when Caruso learned that his Schwartz Cooper partners were considering joining the Dykema firm, he reminded them that he represented six consumer electronics dealership clients in hotly contested fraud litigation against a major Dykema client. Because of this conflict, Caruso sought to join an independent firm with an excellent trial team and with the depth and experience to match the energy and entrepreneurial spirit of his own franchising and business clients.

“Caruso broadens our firm’s litigation practice by providing a presence in franchise litigation and a transactional franchise practice,” said Jeff Stahl, a member of Stahl Cowen’s management committee. Added hiring partner Trent Cornell, “Caruso’s decision to join Stahl Cowen speaks to our firm’s continuing growth and recognition by the legal and business communities.”

Caruso, 49, is a seasoned litigator who represents franchisors, franchise associations, multi-unit franchisees and dealers, and a broad range of other business clients in corporate, partnership and shareholder disputes, contract and fraud cases, trade secret, intellectual property, and employment disputes.

Caruso received his B.A. from Marquette University and his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago and he has been featured in numerous publications and has received recognition in his field, including being named to the Illinois Leading Lawyer Network Advisory Board for expertise in Franchise & Dealership Law. He has been named an Illinois Super Lawyer for the past three years by *Illinois Super Lawyers* magazine and *Law & Politics*. Prior to joining Schwartz Cooper in 2001, Caruso headed his own firm for four years, and earlier in his career he was a partner in Foran & Schultz, Chicago, a premier litigation boutique.

ABOUT STAHL COWEN

Stahl Cowen is a Chicago-based law firm with a national practice focused on serving the needs of business enterprises in today’s dynamic marketplace. The firm provides sophisticated legal counsel to organizations ranging from the entrepreneurial start-ups to large, publicly traded corporations and municipalities. Practice areas include Bankruptcy & Restructuring, Corporate, Mergers & Acquisitions, Litigation, Real Estate and Trusts & Estates. For more information about Stahl Cowen, please go to www.stahlcowen.com.