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July 2, 2024

John M. Nolan
Chair, Member Selection Committee
c/o American College of Real Estate Lawyers
220 N Market Street, Suite 100
Frederick, MD 21701

Re: Nomination of Jonathan W. Knipe
for Membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers

Dear Mr. Nolan:

It is my great pleasure to nominate Jon Knipe for membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

Jon is a highly distinguished real estate lawyer with a national reputation. He is co-chair of Cozen O'Connor's Real Estate Department and previously was General Counsel of Silverstein Properties in New York. I worked closely with Jon for many years on the redevelopment of the World Trade Center after 9/11, while he was at Silverstein, and developed enormous respect for him in the process. Jon played a pivotal role in the World Trade Center project, directing all legal aspects of the redevelopment and negotiating the key agreements. Jon's extraordinary legal skills and business acumen helped resolve many seemingly intractable issues, and smoothed the way to redevelopment.

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At Cozen, Jon works on a wide range of real estate matters, including joint ventures, new development projects, financing, and leasing. He has spent a significant portion of his career involved in the planning, financing, development, construction, leasing, marketing, and operations of mega-projects and public-private partnerships, and has tremendous skill in these areas.

Prior to Cozen and Silverstein, Jon was also general counsel for Fisher Brothers, a New York City based real estate development and finance company. Before Fisher Brothers, he was a vice president at the Related Companies where he was a member of the development team that completed Time Warner Center on Columbus Circle in New York.

In addition to his legal work, Jon is active in a number of nonprofit and educational programs, including serving on the board of trustees of the Harlem Educational Activities Fund (HEAF); as a member and the former chairperson of the Penn State Smeal College of Business Real Estate Advisory Board, and as member of the adjunct faculty at New York Law School where he teaches a seminar on real estate joint ventures, public and private. Jon's students at New York Law School have gained insights from many of Jon's close friends and former colleagues involved in real estate and law who have joined the class, including major developers, owners, government officials and fellow real estate attorneys.

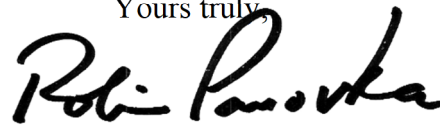
I personally recruited Jon to join the board of HEAF, a Harlem after-school nonprofit organization where I have long been involved, knowing that his skills and commitment to giving back would help advance HEAF's mission. I was thrilled with Jon's contributions to HEAF, and delighted when he took a leadership role in HEAF's legal mentorship programs.

Jon also volunteered his time and was a catalyst in the rebirth of the Forest Hills Stadium, the former home of the U.S. Open tennis championship and where the Beatles and Jimi Hendrix played in the 1960's. Jon played the role of aligning interests between the financing partner, promoter, and the private tennis club that owns the stadium. After twenty-five years of neglect and deterioration, the historic stadium is now completely restored and renovated, and the tennis club has avoided selling the land. Mumford & Sons, Dolly Parton, Drake and The Who, among dozens of other performers, have since played sold out concerts to a crowd of 12,500 music fans, a major boost to the local economy. The "new" Forest Hills Stadium would not exist without Jon's selfless passion to make it a reality, along with his real estate, legal, business and diplomatic skills.

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Throughout his career, Jon has distinguished himself at the highest levels in real estate law and pro bono matters. He is always a pleasure to work with, and knows how to get things done efficiently and in a collegial manner. I am confident that he would be an active and invested member of ACREL, who will not only contribute greatly to the organization, but will also be a generous and helpful colleague to other members.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Panovka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Panovka

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