



Moss & Barnett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Finance Team Expands
with Arrivals of Shannon E. Cook and William J. Straus**

Minneapolis, MN (July 26, 2018) – Moss & Barnett, A Professional Association, is pleased to announce the expansion of the firm's Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Finance team with the arrivals of lawyers **Shannon E. Cook** and **William J. Straus**. The firm now has 20 lawyers serving real estate finance clients nationwide.

Cook represents lenders who originate and sell loans secured by multifamily projects to secondary market investors Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Prior to joining Moss & Barnett, Cook was an attorney at a boutique business law firm, focusing on real estate, tax, and related litigation matters. She is an active member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Hennepin County Bar Association. She is also a Mitchell Mentor, advising and assisting first-year law students at Mitchell Hamline College of Law. Shannon received her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law, where she earned her Law and Business Certificate, and her B.S., from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Straus represents life insurance companies, banks, and other financial institutions in connection with the origination and servicing of mortgage loans secured by multifamily housing

projects, retail centers, office buildings, industrial facilities, and other types of commercial real estate. He also represents clients on the closing and sale of loans to agency investors Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on the secondary mortgage market. Prior to joining Moss & Barnett, Straus worked in the commercial mortgage lending department of a Fortune 500 company. He received his J.D., with distinction, from the University of Nebraska College of Law and his B.S., *summa cum laude*, from St. Cloud State University. During law school, Bill was a Senior Member of the Nebraska Moot Court Board, received the Business Transactions Certificate, and won the McGrath North Mullin & Kratz Excellence in Legal Writing Award.

"We are excited Shannon and Bill have joined our Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Finance Practice Group. Shannon offers a unique practice perspective, with both transactional and litigation experience, in real estate as well as on tax and corporate matters. Bill brings not only legal, but business, experience, from his prior work for an institutional commercial real estate lender. Together, they add to the diversity of experience of our attorneys and enhance the level of services we can provide to our clients," said Tim Gustin, Chairman of the firm.

About the Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Finance Team

The Multifamily and Commercial Real Estate Finance Team advises a full range of private and publicly owned providers of commercial real estate debt, including mortgage banks, investment advisors, life insurance companies, and community, regional and money center banks, throughout the United States on commercial real estate lending investments. The team has particular depth in multifamily housing finance – including market rate housing, targeted affordable housing, senior housing, student housing, and manufactured housing – serving as counsel nationally to Freddie Mac Seller/Serviceers and Fannie Mae DUS Lenders, where

knowledge and experience with the lending programs of these providers is essential for legal representation.

About Moss & Barnett

Moss & Barnett, a Professional Association, is a proven leader in business law and litigation services. With offices in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, Minnesota, the firm's attorneys and professional staff are committed to delivering best-in-class client service and outstanding legal counsel to clients throughout the upper-Midwest and around the country. Moss & Barnett and its attorneys have been named a "Best Law Firm" by *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* every year since the first year of that rating, in 2010. Moss & Barnett was established in 1892. For more information, visit www.LawMoss.com.

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