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The next time you grab lunch or a newspaper when going through the nation's busiest airports, think of Joseph McCoy. In addition to handling complex commercial real estate transactions across the country, McCoy has developed a niche practice representing airport concession operators and structuring other public/private partnerships between local government agencies and private subcontractors for the purpose of stimulating economic development.

Clients laud McCoy for routinely going the extra mile in order not only to understand their business objectives, but also to ensure that informed decisions are being made with respect to both legal risk and potential liability. "Joseph has become my preferred outside counsel for real estate services," says an in-house corporate attorney who met McCoy six years ago. The client, a national company, hired McCoy for leasing matters, the acquisition of leased sites and to address environmental issues affecting their portfolio. In the field of development, the client says McCoy's legal advice and real estate knowledge have been invaluable in helping the company reach its goals.

McCoy joined Perkins Coie LLP as a partner in 2008. He was recently appointed to serve on the national Strategic Diversity Committee and as the chair of the African-American Affinity Group. In addition, McCoy serves on both the Chicago Hiring Committee and the Chicago Diversity Committee, while also serving as the liaison between the two committees. At the age of 32, he became a Partner at Schwartz Cooper Chartered and went on to chair the firm's hiring committee and serve on the firm's marketing committee. McCoy was a summer associate and an associate at Katten Muchin Rosenman.

As an active alumnus of Northwestern University School of Law (NUSL), McCoy serves on its Law Board and as an admissions interviewer. He will begin teaching a real estate transactions course as an adjunct professor at NUSL this spring. McCoy is a member of the American, National, Chicago and Cook County bar associations. He is also a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, the Chicago Mortgage Attorneys Association and the Sports Lawyers Association.

The leadership McCoy demonstrates within the legal profession only scratches the surface of his commitment to give back. Curtis J. Tarver II, an assistant to Chicago's mayor, has known McCoy since 1993. "Joseph has constantly looked after me and provided me candid and wise counsel as a mentor," Tarver says. McCoy is instrumental in the success of Urban Prep Academy, which provides college preparatory education to young men in inner-city Chicago. He serves as chairman of the board and has helped the charter school grow from a single site to three locations. McCoy was a member of the 2007 Fellows Class of Leadership Greater Chicago, where he now is a board member and chair of the Selection Committee. He also serves on the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago.

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