

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

Hinsdale Resident Steve Thayer was honored by the University of Illinois for his and his law firm's support of student athletes.

CHICAGO, January 22, 2007 – Hinsdale resident and Chicago attorney **Steve Thayer** was honored by his alma mater, the University of Illinois, at the 13th Annual Loyalty Circle Dinner in Champaign on Friday, January 19, 2007.

The University's Athletic Department presented Mr. Thayer with the *Spirit of Illinois* Award for his and his law Partners, Tom Handler and Jim Duggan, legacy of support for student athletes. Their continued support provides athletes the opportunity to gain an education and the privilege to compete at the highest levels.

Tom, Steve and Jim of Handler, Thayer & Duggan sponsored student athlete Carlene Robinson. Ms. Robinson hails from Manchester, Jamaica, and is concentrating her studies on tourism management. She is a nationally ranked track and field star and has Olympic aspirations.

Mr. Thayer serves as Chair of the Commercial Practice Group, which includes the firm's Business and Corporate Services, Commercial and Residential Real Estate Services, and Sports and Entertainment Law Practice. Thayer co-founded the law firm, Handler, Thayer & Duggan and has been practicing law for more than 15 years.

Mr. Thayer earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a Masters in Business Administration Degree with an emphasis in Managerial Accounting from DePaul University Graduate School of Business in Chicago, Illinois and a Juris Doctorate Degree from DePaul University College of Law (*Business Law Journal*). He is a member of the American, Illinois State, Iowa State, and Chicago Bar Associations. Mr. Thayer is also a licensed real estate broker, a registered title insurance agent, and a formerly licensed securities sales person under Series 63 with the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Mr. Thayer has been active in various civic organizations including the following: Hinsdale Zoning Board of Appeals, Hinsdale Village Caucus, Committee of 100 – Organization of Community Leaders, the Mid-Day Club of Chicago, Chicago Illini Club, University of Illinois Foundation President's Council and Loyalty Circle, Entrepreneurs Organization, Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club, YMCA Indian Guides Program, and the Sigma Chi Fraternity. In addition to serving in a leadership role with each of these organizations, Mr. Thayer actively contributes his time and resources to various charitable organizations, and continues to search for ways to contribute to the community.

