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40 UNDER FORTY

New leaders for a new Hartford!

Congratulations to our eighth annual group of 40 Under Forty winners! As you'll see throughout this special issue of the *Hartford Business Journal*, they have accomplished a great deal in a short time.

Sharing their stories with you not only celebrates their achievements, but also may put a mirror up to your own efforts. As you'll see, professional accomplishment is only one measure of what it takes to be on the 2004 40 Under Forty team. Our judges — Anne Evans, Larry Brown and Lou Golden — also look carefully for community service and other "giving back" activities among the people vying to be chosen to receive this award.

It was an easy choice this year to assemble our young business and professional leaders at several of Hartford's new development projects. This is an exciting time for the city, and no publication has carried more words and pictures about Hartford's changing skyline than the *HBJ*.

We know there are many uncertainties about the region's future, including delays on the mixed-use Front Street project and whether it will even be built in its currently planned form.

But we also know that Hartford has badly needed an economic development boost, and that we now have one. Seeing the building cranes in the air, seeing new people moving downtown and seeing new retail businesses crop up to serve them represents the best hope the city will see in a generation to create more prosperity for the people and businesses that are already here.

This window of business opportunity is opening wider as the new levels of construction move higher, and now is the time to seize the moment, to help create a new image for the city and the region.

Seizing the moment is one of the most common attributes of this year's 40 Under Forty winners.

We hope you enjoy their stories, and that you can join us in honoring them at a special breakfast on Friday, Sept. 17 at the Bond Hotel.

Sincerely,
Philip Moeller
Editor



40 UNDER FORTY

Joseph P. Williams

Age: 35

Title: Partner

Company: Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Company Location: Hartford

Residence: Manchester

Career Highlights:

I served as a congressional page to Speaker Tip O'Neill during high school; earned my political science degree from American University; and taught a "street law" class to Washington, D.C., high school students while at Georgetown's law school. I also argued at the Second Circuit Court of Appeals as a third-year associate; was welcomed as a partner in 2000 by the finest group of people and lawyers that exists anywhere; won my first argument at the Connecticut Supreme Court in 2001; and was named a "New Leader of the Law" by the *Connecticut Law Tribune* in 2002.

Community Volunteerism Highlights:

My annual work on Habitat for Humanity homes is very meaningful to me, as it gives me a chance to directly help people achieve their dreams. I have been enriched by my six years on the board of directors of the Bushnell Park Foundation, helping to preserve and restore "Hartford's crown jewel." I was also fortunate to spend a year in Leadership Greater Hartford with a talented and committed task force that established a mock trial program



at a juvenile supervision facility in Hartford. Another highlight has been chairing our firm's United Way campaign.

Biggest Success:

Professionally, my biggest success has been coming from a blue-collar family, being the first in my family to go to college, graduating with honors and realizing my dream of becoming a lawyer. Personally (and more importantly), it has been marrying a woman whose support and companionship I cherish each day and helping her to raise two amazing little people.

Dream Job:

That's easy — starting outside linebacker for my beloved Philadelphia Eagles; but I'd settle for watching a Super Bowl victory.

Businessperson You Most Admire:

Bill Gates, because he built a tremendously successful company out of nothing and embodies a quintessentially American entrepreneurial spirit and drive. He created a product that has transformed the way we live and work, and has generated a great amount of jobs. He demonstrates a passion for creativity, customer service and helping people achieve their goals. And he is incredibly philanthropic, with a charitable foundation that does tremendous good all over the world.