

Best *of the* Best

**Another
year,
another
top-notch
list**

Welcome to the latest Best of the Best Issue featuring the Top Players in each market throughout the Midwest.

To that end, the Best of the Best Issue is a must-read reference guide to be used all year for anyone conducting business in the Midwest, to have at your fingertips the valuable information in this issue helps you in your job. Need a Top Real Estate Law Firm? Top Contractor? Top Mortgage Banker? Check this issue.

This is our seventh Best of the Best Issue and the number of firms participating each year keeps growing. Last year was the first issue we added Midwest's Top Law Firms and this year's response was even greater.

The issue also provides an indication on how the market is performing. From this year's listings, we can tell some had a very good 2005. Those indicators tell us that 2006 is continuing at that same brisk pace as markets are rebounding and activity is increased.

The Best of the Best Issue is the result of voluntary surveys competed and returned by the firms listed herein. To be involved in next year's issue, please contact one of us.

With that, we are pleased to present this issue of the Best of the Best.

MARK MENZIES
Publisher

TRICIA HADDON
Associate Publisher

ADAM HREJSA
Senior Account Executive

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ABN AMRO

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INVESTMENT & LOAN

..... **TOP DIRECT LENDERS**

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Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, L.P.

..... **TOP INTERMEDIARIES**

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..... **TOP MIDWEST REAL ESTATE LAW FIRMS**

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Trammell Crow Company

..... **TOP BROKERS**

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..... **TOP OWNERS**

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..... **TOP PROPERTY MANAGERS**

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NOVAK
CONSTRUCTION

..... **TOP CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES**

TOP REAL ESTATE LAW FIRMS

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2006 Best of the Best

1 Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Katten Muchin Roseman LLP

525 W. Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60661
Phone: (312) 902-5200 • **Fax:** (312) 902-1061
Website: kattenlaw.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: David Bryant, National;
 Mark Simon, Chicago
Offices: Chicago, IL

Number of Attorneys in the Group: 37
Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 1,000

200 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million
 600 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

2 Polsinelli Shalton
Welte Suelthaus PC**Polsinelli Shalton Welte Suelthaus PC**

700 W. 47th Street, Kansas City, MO 64112
Phone: (816) 753-1000 • **Fax:** (816) 753-1536
Website: pswslaw.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: Lisa M. Haines
Offices: Chicago, Edwardsville, IL; Clayton, St. Louis,
 Kansas City, MO; Overland Park, Topeka, KS

Number of Attorneys in the Group: 72
Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 569

183 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million
 78 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Leasing, Land Use

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

3 Pircher, Nichols & Meeks

Pircher, Nichols & Meeks

900 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1050, Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 915-3112
Fax: (312) 915-3348

Website: pircher.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: Eugene Leone
Offices: Chicago, IL

Number of Attorneys in the Group: 16
Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 500

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Transactional, Finance
Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

4 ulmer|berne|llp
ATTORNEYS**Ulmer & Berne**

1660 West 2nd, Suite 1100, Cleveland, OH 44113-1448
Phone: (216) 583-7046
Fax: (216) 583-7047

Website: ulmer.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: Bill J. Gagliano
Offices: Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, OH; Chicago, IL
Number of Attorneys in the Group: 29

Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 436
 191 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

20 transactions \$15 million plus
Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Zoning

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

5 WEINBERG | RICHMOND
LLP**Weinburg Richmond LLP**

333 W. Wacker Dr., Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 807-3800
Fax: (312) 807-3903

Website: wr-llp.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: Mark S. Richmond
Offices: Chicago, IL

Number of Attorneys in the Group: 18
Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 400

120 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million
 80 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax, Finance

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

6 Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.

Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.

780 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 273-3500 • **Fax:** (414) 273-5198
Website: gkllaw.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: Michael J. Dwyer

Offices: Appleton, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, Waukesha, WI
Number of Attorneys in the Group: 31

Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 325
 250 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

75 transactions \$15 million plus
Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Tax Credits, Development,
 Zoning, Foreclosures, Condemnation, Construction

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

7 THOMPSON COBURN LLP

Thompson Coburn LLP

One US Bank Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101
Phone: (314) 552-6000 • **Fax:** (314) 552-7000
Website: thompsoncoburn.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: Daniel T. Engle; Paul M. Macon
Offices: Appleton, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee,
 Waukesha, WI

Number of Attorneys in the Group: 54
Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 323

58 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million
 90 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Public Finance

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

8 MUCH SHELIST

**Much Shelist Feed Deneberg
Ament & Rubenstien, P.C.**

191 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 521-2000 • **Fax:** (312) 521-2100

Website: muchshelist.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: Steven A. Stender
Offices: Chicago, IL

Number of Attorneys in the Group: 15
Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 322

259 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million
 63 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

9 SEYFARTH
ATTORNEYS SHAW LLP**Seyfarth Shaw LLP**

55 E. Monroe, Suite 4200, Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (312) 346-8000 • **Fax:** (312) 269-8869
Website: seyfarth.com

Real Estate Practice Chair: J. Kelly Bufton

Offices: Chicago, IL
Number of Attorneys in the Group: 25

Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005: 298
 189 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

109 transactions \$15 million plus
Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional,
 Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Construction, Leasing,
 Development

Areas of Transactions: Commercial, Industrial, Shopping
 Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP

4801 Main St., Suite 1000, Kansas City, MO 64112

Phone: (816) 983-8000**Fax:** (816) 983-8080**Website:** blackwellsanders.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** John McNearney**Offices:** Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, MO; Omaha, NE**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 35**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 220

120 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

100 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Quarles & Brady, LLP

411 E. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 2040, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Phone: (414) 277-5000 • **Fax:** (414) 271-3552**Website:** quarles.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Larry J. Jost**Offices:** Chicago, IL; Madison, WI**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 25**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 200

100 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

100 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

12 HOLLAND & KNIGHT

Holland & Knight LLP

131 South Dearborn Street, 30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: (312) 263-3600 • **Fax:** (312) 578-6666**Website:** hkllaw.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Bruce D. Loring;

Victor P. Filippini

Offices: Chicago, Oakbrook Terrace, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 43**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 165

120 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

45 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Winston & Strawn LLP

35 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (312) 558-5600**Fax:** (312) 558-5793**Website:** winston.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Mark G. Henning**Offices:** Chicago, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 14**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 151

94 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

57 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Arnstein & Lehr

120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60606

Phone: (312) 876-7100 • **Fax:** (312) 876-0288**Website:** arnstein.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Allan Goldberg**Offices:** Chicago, Hoffman Estates, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 16**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 150

100 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

50 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Tax, Environmental, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings15 UNGARETTI
& HARRIS**Ungaretti & Harris**

3500 Three First National Plaza, Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: (312) 977-4400**Fax:** (312) 977-4405**Website:** uhllaw.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Thomas F. Brett II**Offices:** Chicago, Springfield, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 12**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 140

60 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

31 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Development**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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 schwartz
cooper
Schwartz, Cooper, Greenberger & Krauss, Chtd.

180 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (312) 346-1300 • **Fax:** (312) 782-8416**Website:** schwartzcooper.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Robert C. Linton, Esq.**Offices:** Chicago, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 21**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 132

87 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

45 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Other**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Jones Day

77 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 3500, Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (312) 782-3939**Fax:** (312) 782-8585**Website:** jonesday.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** David Lowery; Robert Lee**Offices:** Chicago, IL; Cleveland, Columbus, OH**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 32**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 117

35 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

82 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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STINSON
MORRISON
HECKER LLP**Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP**

1201 Walnut Street, Suite 2900, Kansas City, MO 64106

Phone: (816) 842-8600 • **Fax:** (816) 691-3495**Website:** stinsonmoheck.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Dave Frantze; Allen Blair, Co-Chair**Offices:** Overland Park, Wichita, KS; Jefferson City, Kansas City, St. Louis, MO; Omaha, NE**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 23**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 110

75 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

35 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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slusky law
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Slusky Law, LLC

17445 Arbor Street, Suite 300, Omaha, NE 68130

Phone: (402) 991-5777 • **Fax:** (402) 991-5117**Website:** sluskylaw.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Jerry M. Slusky**Offices:** Omaha, NE • **No. of Attorneys in the Group:** 6**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 109**Areas of Real Estate Practice:** Transactional, Tax, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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GOULD & RATNER
Gould & Ratner

222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (312) 236-3003 • **Fax:** (312) 236-3241**Website:** gouldratner.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Amy M. Blumenthal**Offices:** Chicago, IL • **No. of Attorneys in the Group:** 15**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 107

28 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

19 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Freeborn & Peters LLP
Attorneys at Law
Freeborn & Peters LLP

311 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606

Phone: (312) 360-6000 • **Fax:** (312) 360-6543**Website:** freebornpeters.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Richard Traub**Offices:** Chicago, Springfield, IL • **No. of Attorneys in the Group:** 12**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 100

75 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million

25 transactions \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Other**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

7800 Sears Tower/233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606

Phone: (312) 876-8000 • **Fax:** (312) 876-7934**Website:** sonnenschein.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Jana Cohen Blackman,

National; Robert F. Messerly, Vice Chair National

Offices: Chicago, IL; St. Louis, Kansas City, MO**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 78**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 100

25 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million • 75 of \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Armstrong Teasdale LLP

One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600, St. Louis, MO 63102

Phone: (314) 621-5070 • **Fax:** (314) 621-5065**Website:** armstrongteasdale.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Timothy J. Tryniechi**Offices:** St. Louis, Jefferson City, Kansas City, MO; Overland Park, KS; Belleville, Edwardsville, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 25**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 85

50 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million • 35 of \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Finance, Other**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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**SCHOTTENSTEIN
ZOX & DUNN CO., LPA**

250 West Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 462-2700 • **Fax:** (614) 462-5135 • **Website:** szd.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Randall S. Arndt**Offices:** Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, OH**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 9**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 85**Areas of Real Estate Practice:** Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Construction**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Dykema

10 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2300, Chicago, IL 60606

Phone: (312) 876-1700 • **Fax:** (312) 876-1155**Website:** dykema.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** James C. Adams**Offices:** Chicago, Lisle, Joliet, IL; Detroit, Ann Arbor, Bloomfield, Grand Rapids, Lansing, MI**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 40**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 80

45 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million • 35 of \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Liability, Finance, Other**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Shesky & Froelich Ltd.

111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2800, Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: (312) 527-4000 • **Fax:** (312) 527-4011**Website:** sheskylaw.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Anthony R. Licata**Offices:** Chicago, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 12**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 80

50 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million • 30 of \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Tax**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC

2 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: (312) 476-7549 • **Fax:** (312) 346-8434**Website:** lplegal.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Brian Kozminski**Offices:** Chicago, Northfield, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 19**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 77

58 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million • 19 of \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Tax, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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Jenner & Block LLP

One IBM Plaza, Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: (312) 222-9350 • **Fax:** (312) 840-7656**Website:** jenner.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Donald I. Resnick**Offices:** Chicago, IL**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 11**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 60

20 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million • 30 of \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

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ROETZEL & ANDRESS
 A LEGAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
Roetzel & Andress, LPA

222 South Mail Street, Akron, OH 44308

Phone: (330) 376-2700 • **Fax:** (330) 376-4577**Website:** ralaw.com**Real Estate Practice Chair:** Michael J. Haas and Brian J. Moore**Offices:** Akron, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Toledo, OH**Number of Attorneys in the Group:** 27**Real Estate Transactions Completed in 2005:** 59

44 transactions \$5 million to \$14 million • 15 of \$15 million plus

Areas of Real Estate Practice: Litigation, Transactional, Environmental, Liability, Finance**Areas of Transactions:** Commercial, Industrial, Shopping Centers, Land, Office Buildings

27. Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.

28. Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP

29. Waxman Blumenthal LLC

30. Foran O'Toole & Burke LLC

Blumenfeld, Kaplan & Sandweiss

Butzel Long

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

Krieg DeVault LLP

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP