

## **G. A. FINCH BIOGRAPHY**

A graduate of Amherst College and the University of Michigan Law School, G. A. Finch is a **Partner with the law firm of Hoogendoorn & Talbot LLP (a spin-off boutique from Kirkland & Ellis LLP)** where he has led its business, employment and government/regulatory groups and supports its real estate and litigation practices.

More recently, he took a leave of absence from his law partnership to do another stint of public service by working as **Chief of Staff to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle**. As Chief of Staff, he oversaw the executive functions of the second largest county in the U.S.

He has acquired significant management skill sets from his leadership positions in government, private law practice and not-for-profit board service. These skills include performance management, budgets, media relations, operations, human resources, labor relations, board governance, and strategic planning.

Mr. Finch regularly has advised clients on all facets of their business, employment, real estate and litigation matters including formations, financings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate compliance and corporate governance. He negotiates and drafts employment contracts and separation agreements concerning senior executives and professionals and advises them on their individual leadership development issues. He also negotiates and drafts outsourcing, technology licensing, energy, manufacturing, supply, franchise, consulting, confidentiality, and construction agreements. His clients include publicly traded companies, closely held corporations, not-for-profits, financial institutions, health care organizations, municipal corporations as well as numerous developers, architectural and engineering firms, brokers, and contractors. He also has substantial experience in governmental relations, government procurement and ethics investigations.

His previous positions have included being a **Partner in the Chicago office of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP** and being a **Co-Managing Shareholder, Corporate Group Chair, Governmental Relations/Procurement Group Chair, and Real Estate Group Chair at Querrey & Harrow, Ltd.** (Mr. Finch was the first African American to lead a large law firm in Chicago) (had specific responsibility for growing firm revenues in all practice groups and offices, developing new practice groups, repositioning firm in market place, re-branding firm, creating programs and metrics for individual shareholders and group practice business development, instituting services quality controls, and pricing services and overall marketing of the firm).

Additionally, he is a former **City of Chicago Deputy Planning Commissioner** (was loaned from Chicago Title & Trust Company to jumpstart over \$750 million in downtown development), **Illinois Human Rights Commissioner, Chicago Housing Authority General**

**Counsel** (took hiatus from Querrey & Harrow to manage a 40-person legal staff, the Inspector General's Office and the Ethics Officer as part of the CHA's \$1.5 billion Plan for Transformation), **Chicago Title & Trust Company Assistant Counsel** (took leave of absence to become Chicago Deputy Planning Commissioner), **Illinois Capital Development Board Deputy General Counsel**, and **Federal Election Commission Attorney**. Mr. Finch had the honor to serve as **Judicial Clerk to the late Chief Judge James B. Parsons of the U.S. District Court in Chicago**.

His awards and honors have included:

- Fellow, Leadership Greater Chicago
- Fellow, Salzburg Global Seminar
- Simpson Law Fellow
- Chicago Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Citizens Award
- Chicago Commission on Human Relations Thomas and Eleanor Wright Award
- Named a Business Leader of Color by Chicago United
- Inducted into Lambda Alpha International Honorary Land Economics Society
- Selected as a distinguished African American alumnus of Amherst College and featured in its Black History Month Exhibit
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Award
- Illinois Leading Lawyer
- Illinois Super Lawyer
- Highest Martindale Rating in Legal Ability & Ethics (AV)
- Cook County Bar Association Ida B. Platt Award
- Chicago Bar Foundation Distinguished Service Award

A civic leader, he currently serves on the CBA Television Productions, Inc. Board of Directors, the City Colleges of Chicago Community Advisory Council, State of Illinois Provider-Plan-Player Alliance for Health Steering Committee, The John Marshall Law School Center for Real Estate Advisory Board, the Board of Directors of the Chicago Area Boy Scouts Council (former **vice president**), and Concept Schools Inc. Advisory Committee. He is a Member of the Economic Club of Chicago and Queen of All Saints Basilica Men's Club. He is also a Life Member of the Association for the Study of African American Life & History.

He previously served as **president** of the Board of Advisors of St. Joseph Seminary of Loyola University (the first African American president of a Roman Catholic Archdiocesan College Seminary Board); Board of Trustees of Hampshire College (**chair** of Buildings & Grounds Committee); Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth School (named # 1 private secondary school in Eastern Massachusetts by *Boston Magazine* in 2009); **chair** of Decatur Classical Local School Council (consistently ranked # 1 public elementary school according to *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and *Chicago Magazine*); Executive Council of the University of Michigan

Rackham Graduate School; Board of Trustees of Robert Morris College; Board of Directors of the Chicago Community Trust's Chicago Area Foundation for Legal Services; Board of Directors of Chicago Sinfonietta; **vice president** of the Board of Directors of Pegasus Players; **president** of the Board of Directors of the Katherine Dunham Retrospective Festival; Board of Trustees of the Chicago Housing Authority Pension Fund; the Chicago Bar Foundation Board of Directors (**chair** of 2011 Fall Benefit and **vice chair** of its Investing in Justice Campaign); Chicago Bar Association Board of Managers (also provide *pro bono* legal work to CBA), **secretary** of the Editorial Board of *Illinois Bar Journal*; Editorial Board of *Chicago Bar Record*; Editorial Board of *Journal of Real Estate Finance*; **vice president** of Board of Directors of Amherst Club of Chicago; Board of Directors of Leadership Greater Chicago Fellows Association; Board of Directors of Chicago Legal Clinic; **chair** of Union League Club Real Estate Steering Committee; Governor's Committee on Housing; Illinois Agriculture Export Advisory Committee; Lt. Governor's Energy Task Force; Cook County Recorder's Blue Ribbon Committee; and **vice president and state general** counsel to League of United Latin American Citizens.

He has a blog entitled *Your Executive Life*, which may be read at [www.yourexecutivelife.com](http://www.yourexecutivelife.com).

He has lectured on topics including achievement motivation/education ethic, business startups, business succession, employment law, ethics, procurement, social media, environment, real estate law, construction law, election law, political campaigning, economic development, African American history, and government transformation, among other subjects.

He has published numerous articles and op-ed pieces ranging from the *Chicago Tribune* to *Chicago Sun-Times* to *Crain's Chicago Business* to *Today's Chicago Woman* to *Illinois Bar Journal* to *Chicago Bar Record* to *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, among other writings.

He is married to Carmen Diaz, has three children: Marisol, Gabriella and Maximelio.

#### **CONTACT:**

**312-294-5752 (W)**

**312-513-7524 (C)**

**773-685-3221 (H)**

**[finchga@yahoo.com](mailto:finchga@yahoo.com)**

**5827 North Kostner Avenue**

**Chicago, IL 60646**

#### **REPRESENTATIVE PUBLISHED ARTICLES INCLUDE:**

"How Serving on Non-Profit Boards Can Boost Your Career," *Diversity MBA Magazine*

"The Teaching Buck Stops Here," *Chicago Tribune*

“What Makes Public Education Succeed or Fail,” *Chicago Tribune*

“Going to Leader School Makes Chicago Stronger, Your Turn,” *Crain’s Chicago Business*

“Talking Politics, Why Do We Need a Robust CTA? Entire Region’s Health Depends on It,” *Crain’s Chicago Business*

“Talking Development, Mickey on State: What Dealmakers Can Expect,” *Crain’s Chicago Business*

“Talking Politics, What Should Be Done With Block 37? Keep it Vacant,” *Crain’s Chicago Business*

“Effective Meetings,” *CBA Record* (Chicago Bar Association)

“American Antidumping Law & Japanese Imports,” *Spring-Autumn Papers* (University of Michigan)

“Understanding the Other Sector in the Regulatory and Market Environments,” *The Journal of Real Estate Development*

“Illinois Public Bidding Statute: The Pitfalls,” *78 Illinois Bar Journal* 402

“A Primer on Illinois Public Mechanics Liens,” *75 Illinois Bar Journal* 500

“Lawyer’s Forum: Block 37’ Just One Piece of North Loop Project,” *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*

“Lawyers Forum: Bankruptcy Law - Retroactive Relief Should Be Considered,” *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*

“Lawyer’s Forum: Attorney Fees – The Illinois Statutory Attorney’s Lien,” *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*

“Municipal Law Tips: Ten Basic Things to Know About Illinois Public Official Gift Bans,” *Martindale.com Articles*

“How to Keep Your Business Information Confidential,” *Daily Reporter*

"A/E Confidential: Protecting Trade Secrets," *Consulting-Specifying Engineer*

"The Consequences of 'Anticipatory' Breaches of Contracts," *Daily Reporter*

"Non-compete Agreements: You May Not Get What You Bargained For," *Lorman.com Newsletters*

“Chicago's New Restrictive Covenant Ordinance,” *Illinois Real Estate Journal*

"Employment Contracts: A Primer," *Daily Reporter*

"Employment Contracts: More Than Just a Handshake," *Consulting-Specifying Engineer*

"Attorney Billing Practices: What is a Consumer of Legal Services to Think," Illinois State Bar Association

"Employment Contracts – What You Should Know," *Midwest Engineer*

**REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH MADE SPEECHES OR PRESENTATIONS:**

Leadership Greater Chicago; DePaul University Entrepreneur's Program; Association for the Study of African American Life & History; League of United Latin American Citizens; U.S. District Court's New Citizens Induction; Circuit Court of Cook County First Municipal District Advisory Committee; Urban Land Institute; Greater State Street Council; University of Michigan Law School Alumni Association; American Bar Association; Illinois State Bar Association; Cook County Bar Association; Chicago Bar Association; Loyola University Law School and Department of Political Science; The John Marshall Law School; Chicago Public Schools; Hispanic American Construction Industry Association; Environmental Law & Policy Center Symposium; Boy Scouts of America; Girl Scouts; Sumner High School – St. Louis; The Druids Club of Chicago; and Chicago City Council.