



MESA ARIZONA

MESA, ARIZONA

TRAINING HOME OF

CHICAGO CUBS

SPRING 2014

HISTORY. TRADITION. SUCCESS.



WELCOME TO MESA RIVERVIEW PARK AND CUBS PARK
NEW HOME OF THE CHICAGO CUBS TRAINING COMPLEX

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



Law firm shares Spring Training Tradition

Gust Rosenfeld has longtime ties with community, sports

The details of how Gust Rosenfeld assisted the City of Mesa in financing Cubs Park might be too "inside baseball" for most folks, but one thing is clear: the venerable law firm is continuing its tradition of ensuring that spectacular, publicly funded projects around the state succeed.

Scott Ruby, a partner at Gust Rosenfeld, explained that the firm has a longtime tie with baseball and spring training. The full-service law firm acted as the lead financing attorneys when then-Bank One Ballpark (now Chase Field) was constructed, and it was on board for the financing of several spring training facilities in Scottsdale, Goodyear and Peoria. Additionally, Gust Rosenfeld served as bond counsel on hundreds of occasions for a wide range of projects, from the CAP canal to a domed athletic facility in the Round Valley school district.

Ruby noted that the firm has a long standing relationship with the City of Mesa, having worked with that city since the mid-1940s. The law firm's roots in Arizona and its preeminence in bond law go back to the 1920s. In 1921, the firm of Gust & Smith merged with Kibbey & Bennett, which was established in 1909 in Arizona and makes Gust Rosenfeld the oldest law firm in the state. John L. Gust was Arizona's first bond lawyer. Fred W. Rosenfeld joined the firm in 1924 and he developed the municipal bond practice, which continues to be nationally respected today. His son, Fred H. Rosenfeld, joined the firm in 1964 and currently practices in the areas of municipal bonds and government law. Fred is a co-founder and charter member of the American College of Bond Counsel.

With offices in Phoenix, Tucson and Wickenburg, Gust Rosenfeld's current team of 65 attorneys handles the full spectrum of legal issues, from commercial law to litigation, and it even represents one of the largest retailers in the world. It also supports a culture of giving back to the community. Gust Rosenfeld attorneys and staff offer countless hours, both as volunteers and through providing pro bono services, to support professional and non-profit organizations. And, of course, they still find time to cheer on the Cubs.

Foundation worthy of great American pastime

Mesa-based Rhino Masonry crafts unique look, feel for Cubs Park

For Bob and Judy Ahlers, the opportunity to have their Mesa-based company perform all the masonry work at the new Cubs Park was like hitting a home run, both professionally and personally.

"This was the all-American job," says Judy, vice president of Rhino Masonry, the family-owned business the couple founded in 1993. "I jumped for joy when I heard we'd gotten the contract."

Bob, the company president, said his crew of 25 masons constructed nearly every building – from the concession stands and souvenir shop to the ticket booths and Left Field Building – using approximately 315,000 concrete blocks tinted a custom-blended hue created specifically for the project. For a decorative flourish, blocks on the bottom third of each building's exterior were polished smooth.

"The idea was to have concrete blocks that sort of look like marble," Bob said, and that goal was achieved as the result is a visually pleasing surface revealing the textural mix of rock, aggregate and cement within the block.

The only Cubs Park structure not built of block is the stadium itself, but the handiwork of Rhino Masonry's artisans is also incorporated there in two meaningful features: a 110-foot, curved red brick wall behind home plate and a stretch of red brick wainscoting outside the stadium's suite level. While these brick accent pieces represent a small fraction of the work his crews performed, Bob said loyal Cubs' fans understand their importance: they're a not-so-subtle nod to the ivy-covered, red-brick outfield wall at Wrigley Field, the team's much-loved Chicago home. In fact, he said the red bricks at Cubs Park are replicas of those used at the Windy City site and were made by the original South Carolina manufacturer.

Now, after more than a year devoted to the training facility, the Ahlers and their staff are excited for the public to see the venue they helped create in the city they love.

"We're so proud to be a part of this project because it's part of Mesa," Judy said.

