

## Partners Notes

### Survey: Nearly Half Of Law Offices Plan Additions In Next 12 Months

Law firms and corporate legal departments will be adding to their teams in the year ahead, a new survey shows. Litigation, corporate governance and intellectual property were identified as the areas of law expected to experience the most growth.

The survey was developed by Robert Half Legal, a leading staffing service specializing in attorneys, paralegals and other highly skilled legal professionals. It was conducted by an independent research firm and includes responses from 300 attorneys among the 1,000 largest law firms and corporations in the United States and Canada.

Lawyers were asked, "Do you expect the number of lawyers employed with your law firm/corporate legal depart-

ment to increase, stay the same or decrease in the next 12 months?" Their responses: increase 47 percent, stay the same 47 percent, decrease 2 percent, and don't know 4 percent.

"Litigation activity – from labor and employment disputes to contract issues and patent and copyright protection is creating demand for tenured attorneys with relevant case experience and successful track records," said Charles Volkert, executive director of Robert Half Legal. "Litigation occurs in every industry and is a practice area that continually produces a significant volume of work. Because case demands vary, however, law firms often supplement their full-time staff with project professionals to meet peak workloads."

### National Arbitration Forum Welcomes New Executives

The National Arbitration Forum recently welcomed new Director of Marketing Aimee Egan and Senior Business Development Executive Mike Bjellos.

In her role as director of marketing, Ms. Egan will plan and execute all marketing and communications initiatives. She succeeds Curtis Brown, former director of marketing. Ms. Egan comes from Thomson West where she worked for seven years, most recently as director of marketing of the Small Law Firm Segment and Managed Technology Services groups.

As senior business development executive, Mr. Bjellos will coordinate efforts to educate individuals and organizations on the value of arbitration. Mr. Bjellos comes from Thomson West where he worked for 11 years, most recently as regional sales manager with a focus on corporate sales.

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The National Arbitration Forum recently issued decisions on three separate domain name disputes filed by Disney, Jimmy Buffett and Angels Baseball.

The following three decisions were made in accordance with the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) by independent and neutral arbitrators on the National Arbitration Forum's panel.

DisneyComics.com – One of the world's largest entertainment corporations, Disney Enterprises, Inc., submitted a complaint electronically on February 15. The National Arbitration Forum panel found that the domain name DisneyComics.com was being cybersquatted by Dayanand Kamble of India who used the website to offer advertising links and products, some related to Disney's trademarks.

The panel found that the domain name was confusingly similar to the Disney mark. Because the complainant proved all three elements required of the

ICANN Policy, the request to transfer DisneyComics.com to Disney Enterprises, Inc. was granted.

JimmyBuffettUniversity.com – Margaritaville Enterprises, LLC, controlled by popular singer Jimmy Buffett, submitted a complaint electronically with the National Arbitration Forum asserting legal rights to the domain names BuffettUniversity.com, JBuffett.com, JimmyBuffettUniversity.com and UniversityOfBuffett.com.

The panel concluded that the Jimmy Buffett-themed domain names were identical or confusingly similar to the registered trademark Jimmy Buffett. Furthermore, the respondent and registered owner Whapp Innovations, Inc. was using the domain names to operate pay-per-click websites and thusly for commercial gain. The panel found that the complainant had established all three elements required under the ICANN policy and had defended successfully its trademark in domain name dispute resolution. The four domain names were ordered to be transferred to Jimmy Buffett.

Angels.com – The Los Angeles Major League Baseball team, Angels Baseball, filed a complaint electronically with the National Arbitration Forum against Lee Dongyeon, the registered owner of Angels.com. The respondent, of Korea, requested the dispute be decided by a three-member panel.

The panel found that Angels.com was identical to the complainant's ANGELS trademark. However, it was found that the Respondent had registered the ANGELS mark in Korea without any opposition from the American baseball team. The panel also found that the respondent may not have known of complainant and therefore did not register Angels.com in bad faith. Although the baseball team uses ANGELS as a trademark, it failed to prove two of three elements required under the ICANN policy to transfer a domain name. The panel denied the transfer of Angels.com to Angels Baseball.

### DataCert, Inc. Acquires Matter Management Capabilities

DataCert, Inc. has announced that it now offers matter management capabilities with its acquisition of Corprosoft, Inc., a Dallas-based provider of matter management solutions. The acquisition will combine two products to law departments (legal spend management and matter management) and broaden DataCert's existing product capabilities of legal and intellectual property spend management solutions.

"DataCert and Corprosoft share the same business sensibilities," said Eric M. Elfman, president and CEO of DataCert. "DataCert and Corprosoft both offer top-tier products, market to *Fortune* 500 law departments and specialize in complex integrations. In fact, seven of the *Fortune* 500 and eight of the *Fortune* Global 500 are shared customers. This strategic acquisition will not only benefit the overall legal market but existing customers will gain the expertise of both industry leaders. We are delighted to add Corprosoft to the DataCert family as we drive a new era in legal technology innovation."

DataCert and Corprosoft's customers will benefit from a product vision that includes a comprehensive offering of best practices and a seamless integration of two proven products. With this acquisition, DataCert offers law departments a capability to effectively manage their business operations.

Corprosoft, founded in 1991 by board member Phil Russell and led by Chairman of the Board Carl Sutherland, has long been a guiding force in matter management software innovation. Corpro-

soft will maintain its Dallas office and Jim Bridges will continue to lead its operations.

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DataCert, Inc. has announced the opening of an office in Frankfurt. The office will support corporate law departments in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (DACH) as well as Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg (Benelux).

This marks the third European office established by DataCert since 2005. DataCert opened its London office in January of 2005 and its Paris office in February of 2007.

"For *Fortune* Global 500 corporations, the business of law is conducted on a worldwide scale," commented Jeff Hodge, DataCert's senior director of Europe, Middle East and Africa. "While DataCert is headquartered in the United States, our local presence in London, Paris and Frankfurt reinforces our commitment to the international corporate counsel community. Additionally, our Advanced Invoice Management System (AIMS) helps corporate counsel to adhere to value added tax (VAT) compliance and processes and reports on electronic bills in multiple currencies."

The demand for electronic billing and legal spend management has been evidenced by DataCert's rapid growth in Europe. DataCert's European operations accounted for 50 percent of new corporate client sales orders in 2006.

The Frankfurt office is located at Frankfurter Welle, An der Welle 4, 60322 Frankfurt.

### Winston Cites Accomplishments Of Female Partners

The firm of Winston & Strawn has announced recent accomplishments of a number of its women partners.

Lisa M. Thomas was featured in a *Crain's Chicago Business* profile titled *She Stops Them from Crossing the (On)Line*. In the profile, Ms. Thomas discusses her work on "hot" issues such as text messaging and the Children's Online Privacy Act.

Christine A. Edwards is one of 14 commissioners and chair of the Financial Institutions Working Group of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce: Capital Markets Commission, which recently issued its Report and Recommendations on the Regulation of U.S. Capital Markets in the 21st Century.

Laura R. Petroff, managing partner of Winston & Strawn's Los Angeles office, was named by the *Daily Journal* to its most recent list of the Top 100 Most Influential California Lawyers. Ms. Petroff also serves on the board of directors of Public Counsel, the largest pro bono public interest firm in the world.

Marie A. Lona was named head of Winston's recently launched e-Discovery and Electronic Information practice, which counsels clients on all issues surrounding electronically stored information.

Connie N. Bertram, named Leading

Lawyer in labor and employment law by *Legal Times* and Top Washington Lawyer in employment law by *Washingtonian Magazine*, serves as an instructor for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, serves as co-chair of the annual Georgetown CLE/ALI-ABA Evidence Issues and Jury Instructions in Employment Cases program, and recently authored the article *Sarbanes-Oxley: The New Whistlestop for Whistleblowers in The Labor Lawyer*.

Susan A. Pipal was elected to the Chicago Bar Association Board of Managers for a two-year term beginning in June.

Jennifer T. Nijman was ranked number three on *Leading Lawyers Network* magazine's list of the Top 10 Leading Women Lawyers in Illinois in All Areas of Law, and Christine L. Albright was ranked number seven on the magazine's list of the Top 10 Leading Women Consumer Lawyers in Illinois.

Debra Albin-Riley is the immediate past chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Litigation Section.

Barbara C. Sessions, the firm's marketing partner, won the 2007 Legal Marketing Association – Chicago Chapter Your Honor Award for Excellence in Advertising Campaign in recognition of Winston's new ad series.