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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Second Annual Partnering & Convergence Conference Comes to Chicago**

**-- Forum to Offer Successful Strategies for Controlling Legal Costs --**

**Minneapolis – May 4, 2000** – A unique forum designed specifically for profit-minded in-house counsel and business leaders concerned about managing the cost of legal services will be held later this month in Chicago.

The second annual event, “Partnering & Convergence: Successful Strategies for Controlling Legal Costs,” will take place on Monday, May 22 and Tuesday, May 23. The conference will be held at the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, located at 10 Marriott Drive in Lincolnshire, Ill., approximately 15 miles from O’Hare International Airport.

The prestigious faculty for the forum includes senior counsel at companies such as AT&T, DuPont, Heller Financial, McDonald’s, MCI WorldCom, Motorola and United Parcel Service. This year’s event also features keynote speeches by two nationally prominent speakers, Thomas R. Haller, senior vice president of Aon Corporation, and Frederick J. Krebs, president of the American Corporate Counsel Association (ACCA).

Last year’s inaugural conference was lauded as one of the most insightful legal programs of 1999. According to Mark J. Samuels, Esq., vice president of United Services Automobile Association, the first annual Partnering & Convergence conference was “the best seminar I have

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ever attended. It focused on real world issues from both in-house and outside counsel perspectives, which was very valuable.”

The 2000 conference is expected to draw a large audience of attendees from some of the biggest corporations and law firms in the nation.

“In their ongoing battle to control both internal and external legal costs, these law department leaders have amassed a high degree of expertise in law firm partnering,” said James Seidl, president of Minneapolis-based Legal Research Center (LRC), a leading provider of outsourced legal research services and one of the conference sponsors. “Through a carefully crafted conference agenda and a detailed participant workbook, this collective expertise will be made available to conference attendees.”

The conference begins each day at 8 a.m. with continental breakfast, then proceeds to a series of focused sessions. Each session will be led by senior in-house counsel and veteran law firm leaders.

“This really is a dynamic opportunity for legal professionals to learn how America’s best-run law departments are enhancing the quality and reducing the cost of their legal services through strategic partnering programs,” said James Shomper, corporate counsel and manager of law firm partnering at DuPont Legal. “The common thread to all of the experiences that will be shared at the conference is that they all positively impact the bottom line.”

The conference is co-sponsored by LRC, DuPont Legal, Commercial Law Affiliates, West Group and Jaffe Associates, in cooperation with ACCA. New York-based Fulcrum Information Services is producing the program.

For more information about “Partnering & Convergence: Successful Strategies for Controlling Legal Costs,” please call (212) 647-0808, or for online registration information, go to <http://www.fulcruminfo.com>. For members of the news media who would like to cover the event on a complementary press pass (editorial staff members only), please call Daryn Teague at (661) 297-5292.