



Accessible. Experienced. Versatile.

CONTACTS:

Colleen Denbow
Pathfinders Advertising & Marketing
(574) 259-5908, ext. 18
cdenbow@pathfind.com

Jeffrey A. Johnson, Partner
May Oberfell Lorber
(574) 243-4100
jjohnson@maylorber.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local and Regional Businesses Seeking Legal Representation in Other Markets Benefit from Respected Legal Network

May Oberfell Lorber Helps Local Businesses Navigate Unfamiliar Legal Markets Domestically and Globally with LEGUS International Network

Mishawaka, Ind. - In today's marketplace, the cost of doing business has grown to include expenditures associated with legal disputes and litigation. Ranging from supplier issues to business-to-business disputes on unmet contractual obligations, legal disputes are on the rise for businesses. In fact, according to the 2008 Litigation Trends survey conducted on behalf of Fulbright & Jaworski, 34 percent of companies surveyed forecasted an increase in legal disputes for 2009. For small- to mid-size local businesses, legal matters – especially those rooted in distant cities – can be daunting.

Understanding this, May Oberfell Lorber, a law firm based in Michiana for over 150 years, joined the LEGUS International Network of Law Firms, an international network of nearly 60 member law firms created to help small- to mid-size law firms compete more effectively in the global market. May Oberfell Lorber is the only Indiana law firm admitted to LEGUS, a distinction the firm can be proud of given the LEGUS Network has strict quality standards and a policy of only accepting one member law firm in every legal jurisdiction.

“LEGUS membership is not guaranteed. Every applicant firm is screened for attributes and credentials that point to high-quality work,” according to co-founder and President, Sandra Boyer. “In the end, when an applicant firm is accepted, there is a high level of trust throughout the network that the new member firm is qualified.”

With LEGUS' strict quality standards, May Oberfell Lorber is assured that any LEGUS member will handle a case handed to them as if it were their own client. In today's legal industry, the ability to quickly handoff a client's case, without the usual stress attached to giving your client's work to another law firm, is a significant benefit to any client in terms of time, money and quality.

May Oberfell Lorber has the ability, via the LEGUS Network, to immediately manage a client's business anywhere in the world, without the added hassle of having to spend time “finding a firm” when the client's business extends outside Indiana. This may prove particularly helpful for local Michiana businesses finding themselves dealing with legal matters elsewhere, such as trying to recoup supplier products or services from a business partner or vendor in other areas across and outside the U.S.

“Our LEGUS membership provides the firm with a national and international reach *without* the hefty price tag that comes with global capabilities,” said Jeffrey A. Johnson, Partner with May Oberfell Lorber. “We have assisted several of our local clients by utilizing our LEGUS worldwide contacts. The transitions have always been smooth and efficient ultimately saving our clients' time and money.”

-more-

When dealing with and learning about international legal issues, May Oberfell Lorber gets first-hand insight from LEGUS attorneys across the U.S. and around the world, allowing the firm's clients the most accurate, relevant information that may affect their legal course of action internationally. Other Indiana law firms are forced to rely on trade publications and internet research for their insight into international legal issues, which could result in added billable time for the firm to learn how to navigate the legal system of governments outside the U.S.

About LEGUS

Created in 1995 and based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, LEGUS is a network of 57 small- to mid-size law firms located in the U.S. and around the world, employing a range of work and client referrals between member firms. LEGUS builds close relationships between members through referrals, legal and educational programming, and an exchange of information focusing on member law firm business operations. Together these create true and lasting friendships within an environment of trust and confidence, which enhances members' ability to service their clients' business needs. The LEGUS Network includes law firms in North America, Central America, South America, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean Islands.

About May Oberfell Lorber

Locally based since its founding in 1856, the full-service law firm of May Oberfell Lorber serves the legal needs of corporate and individual clients across Indiana and Michigan. Its broad range of capabilities, extensive legal team experienced in a variety of practice areas, powerful commitment to the local community, and value-minded approach allow May Oberfell Lorber to deliver on its promise of responsive, professional service to its clients. Headquartered in Mishawaka, May Oberfell Lorber also maintains offices in South Bend, Fort Wayne and Walkerton.

For more information please contact:

Jeffery A. Johnson, Partner
May Oberfell Lorber
(574) 243-4100
jjohnson@maylorber.com

Or

Colleen Denbow
Pathfinders Advertising and Marketing
(574) 259-5908, ext. 18
cdenbow@pathfind.com

###

Editor's Note: The 2008 Fulbright & Jaworski Litigation Trends Survey was conducted from May 22 through July 18 by Greenwood Associates in Houston, polling 358 in-house counsel in the U.S. and U.K. spanning industry groups from financial services to energy, manufacturing, health care, retail, real estate, insurance, education, and technology and telecommunications. Companies were spread across all regions of the country and diverse in size: 22% report revenues under \$100 million, 39% have sales between \$100 million and \$999 million, and 39% report sales of \$1 billion and above.