

# NEWS



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **JUDGE ALFRED J. LECHNER, JR. JOINS MORGAN LEWIS AS PARTNER IN PRINCETON**

#### **US District Court Judge for 15 years**

**Philadelphia, September 10, 2001** - Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP announced today that **Judge Alfred J. ("Jim") Lechner, Jr.**, will join the firm on October 1, 2001 as a partner in the Litigation Practice Group resident in the Princeton office. Judge Lechner has been a United States District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey sitting in Newark, New Jersey for more than 15 years, having been appointed in 1986 at age 38. Prior to his appointment to the Federal bench, Judge Lechner spent two years as a judge of the New Jersey Superior Court.

"While on the bench Jim demonstrated those qualities most valued in a judge, namely, intelligence, integrity, fairness, and decisiveness," said Robert A. White, Princeton office managing partner. "Now he'll be able to bring that expertise to Morgan Lewis. The addition of a top quality, high visibility partner such as Jim Lechner will expand the firm's capacity to provide superior litigation services to our clients. We are delighted to welcome him as a senior member of our litigation practice."

Commenting on his decision to join Morgan Lewis, Judge Lechner said, "It was a difficult decision to leave the bench, but it is the right decision for me personally and professionally. The opportunity to join a premier firm like Morgan Lewis, with a mandate to help shape a national litigation practice, is compelling. I look forward to the challenges ahead."

James D. Pagliaro, head of the firm's global litigation practice, added, "Jim is uniquely qualified to help us meet our strategic objectives in the firm's securities and intellectual property litigation practices. A trial lawyer who has served for nearly 20 years as a Federal and state judge is a rare commodity. Most lawyers don't get appointed as judges until they are the age Jim is now. The Federal bench in New Jersey is highly respected. His knowledge and understanding of the courthouse and of trial tactics are going to add a new dimension to our firm's capabilities."

Judge Lechner's practice will focus on securities, intellectual property, and other commercial litigation. As a Federal judge, he has more than 250 published opinions, including 35 securities law opinions and 21 intellectual property opinions. In addition to his judicial duties, he has

participated in numerous panel discussions on securities and intellectual property litigation issues.

Judge Lechner graduated from Xavier University in 1969 and received his law degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1972 where he was the Note and Comment editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review*.

The addition of Judge Lechner to Morgan Lewis' Princeton office continues the firm's recent expansion of that office in the areas of business and finance, employment and commercial litigation, intellectual property, and technology transactions. Clients serviced from the Princeton office include several of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, emerging information technology and biotechnology companies, and Fortune 500 companies with operations and interests in New Jersey.

### **About Morgan Lewis**

Morgan Lewis, with a team of over 1,100 lawyers in 13 offices worldwide, is a fully integrated, multipractice law firm that delivers value and results to global clients. For more than a century, Morgan Lewis has represented Fortune 500 companies, multinational financial services and investment banking organizations, as well as leaders in the life sciences, technology, energy and media sectors.

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