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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORGAN LEWIS EXPANDS REAL ESTATE PRACTICE

L. Bruce Fischer voted into partnership, to reside in Irvine office

Irvine, CA, February 3, 2004 -- Morgan Lewis, one of the 10 largest U.S. law firms, announced today that real estate lawyer L. Bruce Fischer has been voted into the partnership and will reside in the Irvine office.

"Bruce is a top-caliber lawyer with the right combination of sophisticated real-estate experience and a commitment to client service," says Stephen R. Finn, managing partner of the Irvine office of Morgan Lewis. "We are pleased to welcome Bruce to our team of outstanding real estate lawyers."

Bruce brings over 20 years of experience in complex, high-stakes real estate representations to the firm, including experience with institutional lenders and borrowers in connection with construction loans, permanent loans and credit enhancement involving commercial projects, multi-phase residential projects, and low income housing projects. He has also worked extensively with institutional lenders in connection with workouts involving complex loan restructuring, foreclosures, deeds-in-lieu of foreclosure and the appointment of receivers, representation of pension funds in connection with the origination of "mezzanine" loans.

Moreover, his career also includes representation of institutional developers and pension funds in connection with the purchase and sale of commercial and residential properties (including multi-property and multi-state portfolio sales and acquisitions) and representation of investors and developers in Section 42 Tax Credit Projects.

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In February 2003, the firm invested in the region with a dramatic expansion on the West Coast. Currently, Morgan Lewis firm has approximately 230 attorneys located in its West Coast offices of Los Angeles, Irvine, Palo Alto and San Francisco, reflecting its commitment to strategic growth in key geographic and practice areas.

“Throughout 2003, we added outstanding attorneys in key practice areas which have been experiencing increased client demand, including the addition of lawyers from the former firms of Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison, Zevnik Horton LLP, and Pennie & Edmonds LLP., ” says John F. Hartigan, managing partner of the Los Angeles office. “In 2004, the Irvine office expects to add additional top attorneys in furtherance of the firm’s growth initiatives for California and its desire to maintain an office that reflects the diversity, strength and sophistication of the firm. Bruce’s decision to join our team reflects our ongoing commitment to meeting our clients’ needs,” he adds.

About Morgan Lewis

Morgan Lewis, with a team of nearly 1,200 lawyers in 16 offices, is a fully-integrated, full-service law firm that caters 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, securities, real estate and media sectors. For more information about Morgan Lewis, please visit www.morganlewis.com.

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