

Akerman Senterfitt Names New Chair of Intellectual Property Practice Group

NEW YORK — February 17, 2009 — Akerman Senterfitt, one of the largest law firms in Florida and one of the top 100 firms in the U.S., today announced that Mark Passler, a Shareholder at the firm’s West Palm Beach office, has been named Chair of Akerman’s Intellectual Property practice group, which includes attorneys in Akerman's Florida, New York and Virginia offices. Mr. Passler has extensive experience assisting clients worldwide in developing their intellectual property portfolios, more recently in the sports, entertainment and biosciences sectors.

“Mark has been a leader in our intellectual property practice group and is recognized by his peers for his accomplishments in the field,” said Andrew Smulian, Chairman of Akerman. “Mark takes the reins at an exciting time for this group, particularly with the heightened attention to new, cost-saving and advanced technologies in the world’s most rapidly developing fields, including alternative energy and biosciences and to the increased importance of brand differentiation,” Smulian continued. “We are pleased to have an experienced, well-respected leader in Mark and look forward to working with him as he continues to build upon the solid foundation of our existing group of IP specialists, several of whom are engineers and scientists, as well.”

Akerman's Intellectual Property practice group’s veteran team of attorneys (including shareholders and of counsel Michael Dixon, Jean Edwards, Ed Guntin, Andrew Gust, Richard Horn, Pablo Meles, Paul Neils, and Jennifer Rabin) represent clients worldwide in all substantive IP matters in the areas of prosecution, licensing and sale; trade secrets; and intellectual property litigation for clients in more than 35 countries. Akerman’s IP professionals work closely with Akerman’s market-leading Corporate practice to provide extensive transactional support to clients in matters involving portfolio management, brand policing and protection, due diligence, co-existence and monetizing IP assets. The group has deep industry experience in the areas of

biomedical devices, electrical engineering, information technology, telecommunications, health care, sports, entertainment and defense.

About Akerman Senterfitt

Akerman is ranked among the top 100 law firms in the United States by *The National Law Journal NLJ 250 (2008)* in number of lawyers and is one of the largest firms in Florida. The firm serves clients in major business centers throughout the United States, including Miami, New York, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles. For additional information, please visit the firm's Web site at www.akerman.com.

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