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Press Release

Akerman Expands Litigation Practice with Former General Counsel of Jacksonville

July 1, 2014

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, today announced the ongoing expansion of the firm's Litigation Practice Group with the addition of former general counsel for the City of Jacksonville, <u>Cindy Laquidara</u>. With decades of experience in complex commercial litigation and government affairs issues, she joins Akerman as a partner in the Jacksonville office.

"Cindy is a talented trial lawyer with a keen perspective of government and high-risk issues in the public sector," said <u>Lawrence Rochefort</u>, Akerman's Litigation Practice Group Chair. "Cindy will be a valued advisor for many of our clients with interests in this area."

For more than 30 years, Laquidara has represented a wide range of public and private clients in complex commercial litigation, environmental litigation, government and utility contracting and government affairs issues. She frequently advises clients on risk management issues and provides guidance in the areas of redevelopment, construction law and corporate negotiations. Laquidara is board certified by The Florida Bar in City, County and Government Law and has been noted as one of Florida's top government lawyers by *Florida Trend*. Her practice also focuses in the areas of federal and state litigation, public records and ethics.

Laquidara is the former general counsel for the City

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Cindy A. Laquidara Lawrence P. Rochefort

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of Jacksonville, where she served as lead trial counsel, and represented the Office of Mayor Alvin Brown and all city agencies under the mayor, along with city council, the supervisor of elections, the sheriff, the clerk of courts, the JEA (formally known as Jacksonville Electric Authority), the Jacksonville Port Authority and the Jacksonville Transportation Agency, among other entities.

About Akerman LLP

Akerman LLP is a leading transactions and trial law firm known for its core strengths in middle market M&A, within the financial services and real estate industries, and for a diverse Latin America practice. With more than 600 lawyers and government affairs professionals and a network of 20 offices, it is ranked among the top 100 law firms in the United States by *The National Law Journal NLJ* 350 (2013). Akerman also is ranked among the top 50 law firms for diversity in *The American Lawyer*'s Diversity Scorecard (2013).

Akerman's Litigation Practice Group is recognized nationally by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* in the Commercial Litigation category. The firm's team has vast experience in a wide range of civil and criminal litigation, including actions involving banking, securities, healthcare, insurance, real estate and construction.

More information can be found at <u>akerman.com</u> or twitter.com/akerman law.