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## Littler Becomes Sole U.S. Member Of Global Alliance

By **Brendon Pierson**

Law360, New York (October 03, 2008) -- Littler Mendelson PC has become the only American firm to join Ius Laboris, an international alliance of over 2,500 employment lawyers in over 100 countries.

Littler, the largest labor and employment law firm representing management in the U.S., announced on Friday that it is joining the alliance, effective immediately. Ius Laboris, founded in 2001, aims to bring the resources of its member firms, which are based in 45 different countries, together in order to provide international employment law services.

“Our alliance is comprised of exceptional human resources law practitioners, allowing us to provide clients with seamless international coverage and fully coordinated service on all aspects of employment and labor law,” said Carolyn A. Knox, executive director of Ius Laboris. “We selected Littler as our U.S. member to ensure Ius Laboris clients are given access to the U.S. leader in employment and labor law.”

“Littler’s sophisticated and proactive approach to client service and their understanding of the global needs of their clients will strengthen the capabilities of the Alliance,” Knox said. “We are proud to be represented in the U.S. by Littler.”

Peter Susser, chair of Littler’s international employment and labor law practice group, said that the firm has already done extensive work internationally, which its membership in the alliance will enhance.

“In recent years, Littler and select Ius Laboris member law firms have collaborated on a variety of matters involving their respective jurisdictions, including analyzing the application of a workplace security policy across multiple countries; coordinating an audit of human resource professionals’ policies and practices; and dealing with cross-border terminations, employment contracts and business restructuring,” he said. “Our work with Ius Laboris to date has added a depth of value, knowledge and skill that we look forward to leveraging regularly now that Littler has joined the alliance.”

“Littler is honored to join the Ius Laboris alliance and to be in the company of such prestigious firms on a global scale,” said Marko Mrkonich, president and managing director at Littler. “As the largest employment and labor law firm in the U.S., we pride ourselves on our ability to provide specialized international expertise to multinational organizations.”

“Through this partnership, we become part of a group of highly dedicated labor firms that share the same core values of impeccable client service, fine-tuned areas of expertise in labor and employment law and a desire to evolve with clients as business abandons traditional geographic borders,” Mrkonich said.

Mrkonich noted that Littler had been asked to join Ius Laboris in 2001, at its inception, but declined. Now, he said, the increasingly global demands of labor law led the firm to seize a second chance.

Mrkonich said that the alliance would allow Littler to address issues involving foreign laws more easily, and attract more clients. He noted that increasingly, nearly all large companies in the U.S. have significant work forces overseas.

Mrkonich said that he didn’t expect any significant challenges in integrating Littler into the alliance.

“I think we’re all labor and employment lawyers, so even though we may say it with different accents and different idioms, we all speak some of the same language,” he said.