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**THOMPSON & MITCHELL AND COBURN & CROFT MERGE
NAME OF NEW LAW FIRM IS THOMPSON COBURN**

ST. LOUIS -- The law firms of Thompson & Mitchell and Coburn & Croft have merged to become Thompson Coburn. The first day of business as a merged firm is April 1, 1996. The firm has 260 attorneys nationwide, more attorneys in the St. Louis metropolitan area than any other law firm and is among the 90 largest law firms in the nation.

Among the clients of Thompson Coburn are Burlington Northern Railroad, Chrysler, Emerson Electric, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Ingersoll-Rand, Kawasaki Motors, Magna Bank, Maritz Inc., Mercantile Bank, Missouri Pacific/Union Pacific Railroad, Monsanto, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Peabody Coal, Southwestern Bell and United Van Lines.

"Combining the two firms creates a veritable powerhouse of legal resources," noted Thomas J. Minogue, who, along with John R. Musgrave will manage Thompson Coburn. "With additional resources, we can enhance the services we provide and at the same time continue to reduce costs to our clients," added Musgrave. "The legal marketplace is changing rapidly -- there is greater demand for cost containment and increased competition from other law firms. Our merged firm can better respond to the market's demands."

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"Clients can now draw on the knowledge and strengths of attorneys from each firm," continued Musgrave. "And, we've accelerated our on-going commitment to apply cutting edge technology to research, litigation management and communications. The result will be greater efficiency which translates directly to cost savings for our clients," he concluded.

Thompson Coburn will be a market leader in litigation services with 140 trial attorneys. Complementing the litigation expertise and experience are 120 corporate attorneys who can provide a full range of corporate legal services. "We expect to attract additional top-notch corporate attorneys to Thompson Coburn who are interested in representing our blue chip client list and taking advantage of our resources," remarked Minogue.

The management structure of the new firm consists of partners from Thompson & Mitchell and Coburn & Croft. Minogue was the Chairperson of the Management Committee of Thompson & Mitchell. Musgrave was Managing Partner of Coburn & Croft.

Thompson Coburn will remain in the space presently occupied by both firms -- nine contiguous floors in the Mercantile Tower at Seventh and Washington Avenues in downtown St. Louis.

Supporting the 260 attorneys at Thompson Coburn will be 48 paralegals and 277 staff members. The firm has offices in St. Louis; St. Charles, Mo.; Belleville, Il.; Washington, D.C.; and Houston, Tx.

Thompson Coburn will provide corporate and litigation counsel to local, regional and national clients.

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