

HODGSON RUSS ATTORNEYS PAUL J. VALLONE AND BETHANY J. GILBERT ACCEPTED TO 2007 LEADERSHIP BUFFALO PROGRAMS

December 18, 2006

Paul J. Vallone, a partner in Hodgson Russ's Corporate & Securities Practice Group, has been accepted to Leadership Buffalo's Class Experience. Bethany Gilbert, an attorney in the Health Law and Corporate & Securities Practice Groups, has been accepted to the Rising Leaders program.

Mr. Vallone will join others currently involved in leadership and community work in the organization's Leadership Buffalo Class Experience of 2007. Through a year-long series of sessions and retreats, participants will explore key issues in leadership such as economic development, criminal justice, health care, regionalism, human services, education, race relations and diversity, transportation, the environment, agriculture, community logic, and the arts.

Ms. Gilbert will participate in the Rising Leaders program, which brings together young, up-and-coming leaders from diverse backgrounds to prepare them to lead within the corporate, non-profit, and public sectors. Participants gain important leadership skills, obtain knowledge of the complexities of community issues, and broaden their networks.

Mr. Vallone concentrates his practice in mergers and acquisitions and private equity transactions. He represents both public and private business corporations and provides general corporate counseling to a variety of privately-held companies. He is also on the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Western New York.

Ms. Gilbert focuses her practice on health care reimbursement and regulatory and compliance matters. She also practices in the area of nonprofit law, concentrating on corporate formation, business matters, and reimbursement issues. She is on the board of directors of the University at Buffalo Law School Graduates of the Last Decade Group.

Leadership Buffalo is an organization whose mission is to unite existing and emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds and perspectives in order to increase their knowledge of community issues, broaden their vision, and enhance their ability to lead.

With more than 230 attorneys practicing in all major areas of law, Hodgson Russ is among the 200 largest law firms headquartered in the United States. It is one of approximately 100 firms in the country listed in America's Greatest Places to Work With a Law Degree. In June 2005, Hodgson Russ received the Carol S. Knox Family-Friendly Employer Award from the Capital District Women's Bar Association. Established in 1817, Hodgson Russ is among the oldest law firms in the United States. Hodgson Russ has offices in Albany, Buffalo, Johnstown, and New York, New York; Boca Raton and Palm Beach, Florida; and Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

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