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News In Brief:

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Bank of America appointed Gregory Baer Deputy General Counsel for its bank regulatory and public policy legal group in Charlotte, NC. Prior to his appointment, Baer advised domestic and foreign financial institutions as a partner in Wilmer Hale's Washington, DC, office. Baer is entrusted with the responsibilities of handling Bank of America's regulatory and legislative matters and will report to Timothy Mayopoulos, General Counsel. Bank of America has recently been involved in numerous internal strife and legal settlements.

DaimlerChrysler hires new GC

Renowned automaker DaimlerChrysler AG, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles, hired Gerd Becht as General Counsel. Becht has been assigned responsibility for DaimlerChrysler's international legal affairs. A leading supplier of superior passenger cars, SUVs, and sports tourers, DaimlerChrysler also manufactures minivans and pickup trucks.

McGuireWoods featured in general counsels' Top 10 list

Law firm McGuireWoods is featured amongst the top 18 law firms, demonstrating them to be highly preferred by general counsels across the country for various legal services. *Corporate Counsel* magazine revealed this fact in a survey of general counsels for Fortune 250 companies. In its survey, the magazine stated that general counsels select law firms based on "brand name" when it comes to handling critical and complicated legal matters. The

survey included information provided by 93 companies regarding their preferred law firms for corporate transactions, litigation, labor and employment, and intellectual property. Of the four practice areas surveyed, labor and employment showed the most consistency.

Former Diplomat named GC at New Pacific Metals, China

Former Head of Canada's Consulate in Chongqing, Philippe Rheault has been appointed Vice President, China General Counsel of New Pacific Metals Corp. Rheault, who will be working from the company's Beijing office, specializes in compliance issues associated with the mining industry in China. With the rapid growth of New Pacific Metals' silver mining operations in China and the company's plans of becoming one of the most prominent enterprises in its area, the addition of Rheault may prove a significant move. Apart from spending five years as a diplomat, Rheault has worked as corporate counsel in Canada and has considerable experience of negotiating mining joint ventures and acquisitions.

Idenix Pharmaceuticals appoints new Executive VP and GC

Massachusetts-based Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc., appointed John F. Weidenbruch as Executive Vice President and General Counsel, making him responsible for the company's legal and government affairs activities. As a member of the executive committee, Weidenbruch replaces Andrea Corcoran, who recently resigned from the executive officer post. He will also take on additional responsibility as Corporate Secretary. Prior to joining Idenix, Weidenbruch served as General Counsel at Abraxis BioScience, Inc. and was responsible for all legal aspects of the company, including regulatory, corporate, and commercialization matters.

NEW GC and Secretary for Pike Electric

James Fox has joined Pike Electric Corporation as General Counsel and Secretary. Formerly, Fox served Bell, Davis & Pitt, PA, a law firm based in North Carolina. He has more than thirty years of experience to his credit in complex business litigation, including securities, antitrust, intellectual property, and contract litigation. Pike Electric, a major provider of outsourced electric distribution and transmission services, extends its services across 19 states, from Pennsylvania to Florida to Texas, specializing in storm restoration.