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According to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Merrill Lynch & Company has granted an \$8.2-million stock incentive bonus to its executive vice president and general counsel, Rosemary T. Berkery. The grant of 85,573 restricted shares will trickle in in four equal installments, the first of which is slated to arrive on January 31, 2008. Berkery has been with Merrill Lynch since 1983, and prior to that, she was Senior Vice President and Director of U.S. Private Client (USPC) Marketing and Investments. A premier financial advisory company, Merrill Lynch provides its clients with wealth management, capital markets, and investment banking services.

Precious-metals royalty holder hires new GC

Precious-metals royalty company Royal Gold, Inc., has hired Bruce Kirchhoff to serve in its general counsel post. Kirchhoff, who replaces former vice president and general counsel Randy Parcel, will focus on the preparation of royalty acquisitions and royalty financing documents. He will also assist the business development team with negotiating and structuring royalty transactions. Kirchhoff comes from Denver-based law firm Carver, Kirchhoff, Schwarz, McNab & Bailey, LLC, where he was a partner. The only U.S.-listed precious-metals royalty company, Royal Gold is in the unique business of managing royalties on precious-metals mines.

Canadian energy company names VP and GC

Dejour Enterprises Ltd. has announced the appointment of Phillip D. Bretzloff as the company's vice president and general counsel. Bretzloff, who brings to Dejour 30 years of experience in the oil, gas, and energy sectors, has worked for a number of Canadian and international private and public companies. He earlier served as senior counsel for both Petro-Canada and Union Oil Company of Canada, and he partnered with Cumming Blackett Bretzloff Todesco, Gowlings, and Baker & McKenzie. A Canadian energy company, Dejour specializes in the discovery and development of uranium, oil, and gas.

Specialty packaging maker appoints new VP, GC, and secretary

Joseph E. Doyle will serve as vice president, general counsel, and secretary of packaging specialist Pactiv Corporation. Doyle, who brings to the company extensive business law experience, will report to chairman and chief executive officer Richard L. Wambold. Doyle has served Pactiv as its primary outside counsel for 10 years and was most recently a partner in the corporate and securities practice at Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, LLP's Chicago office. Pactiv Corporation is a major producer of specialty packaging products.

Lynch Interactive names new vice president of administration, general counsel, and corporate secretary

Lynch Interactive Corporation has appointed Thomas J. Hearity as the company's vice president of administration, general counsel, and corporate secretary. Hearity, who was most recently General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of Celanese Corporation, has worked for a number of organizations, including Charter Communications, Inc., NYNEX Corporation, AT&T, and law firm Sidley Austin. He has significant experience in the telecommunications sector, which will provide added leverage to Lynch. Rye,

NY-based Lynch Interactive Corporation is a holding company offering multimedia, telecommunications, cable TV, personal communications, and related wireless services.

eMeter appoints new VP and GC

Energy information management solution provider eMeter has hired Elisa Smith, who will serve as the company's vice president and general counsel. In her new role, Smith will oversee legal, human resources, and administrative matters for the company. In the past, she worked as a partner at law firms Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP, Skjerven Morrill, LLP, and Sideman & Bancroft, LLP. Smith has a wide range of experience involving complex commercial, corporate, and real estate transactions. Redwood City, CA-based eMeter Corporation provides enterprise-scale software and services for electric, gas, and water utilities with fixed-network automatic meter reading (AMR) systems.