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News In Brief:

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A leading provider of business process outsourcing and optimization (BPO) services for outsourced customer interactions, StarTek, Inc., has appointed Michael Clayton as its new general counsel. Clayton, who comes from Intrado, Inc., will oversee the company's corporate governance and legal services matters. He has 30 years of experience working for public and private companies. Before joining Intrado, Clayton was Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Alliente, Inc., a BPO company. StarTek, which is based in Denver, CO, has 19 office facilities across North America.

Newly formed insurance brokerage firm hires GC

Insurance brokerage company Kinloch Holdings, Inc., has hired John P. Iacono to serve as its general counsel. Iacono, who has 32 years of insurance and legal experience, joins the company from Alliant. At Alliant, he was chief legal counsel and part of the management team. Kinloch, which has aggressive expansion plans, is on the lookout for brokers who have regional bases or are product-focused. The New York-based company was formed in 2006 and focuses primarily on insurance and risk management for middle-market companies.

W3i hires GC

Hayden O. Creque has been promoted and will now serve as General Counsel for W3i, a global interactive media company that owns Internet portals

freeze.com, Ringtone.com, Screensaver.com, and wallpapers.com. Creque presently heads the company's privacy, risk minimization, and best practice initiatives. As general counsel, he will oversee the company's Internet privacy and software best practices and manage W3i's relationships with external industry experts to ensure compliance. He will also be working on programs proposed by consumer advocacy groups, such as TRUSTe. Creque earlier worked as a litigator at Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP. When it was formed in January 2007, W3i combined multiple business models and grouped them under one consolidated brand.

NC Department of Agriculture hires lawyer from Hunton & Williams

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture has hired Raymond A. Starling, who will serve as its new general counsel. Starling will work on matters related to legislation, policy development, rulemaking, boards and commissions, and departmental operations. He comes from Hunton & Williams, LLP, where he was an associate. At the law firm, Starling focused his practice on commercial litigation and gained expertise on legal matters pertaining to the agricultural and agribusiness sectors. He earned his B.S. in Agricultural Education from North Carolina State University.

DataPipe appoints GC and senior VP

DataPipe has announced the appointment of Michael Bross as its general counsel and senior vice president. Prior to joining DataPipe, Bross was managing partner at New Jersey-based law firm Bross, Cummings, Pereira & Moore, LLC. He brings with him expertise in commercial transactions, intellectual property, and general corporate law. An international provider of managed services, DataPipe identifies the security requirements of businesses and offers strong network-performance support.

VP of Milwaukee-based law firm to take on Emerson's top management post

Vice Chairman of Milwaukee-based law firm von Briesen & Roper, SC, Frank Steeves will be named Senior Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel of Emerson. He will replace W. Wayne Withers, who is set to retire on September 30. Steeves has represented Emerson and a number of its businesses as outside counsel for almost 20 years. An experienced corporate attorney, Steeves also serves as the chairman of the litigation practice group at von Briesen & Roper. St. Louis-based Emerson is a leader when it comes to providing innovative solutions for customers. The company's manufactures list includes tools and appliances, electronic equipment, industrial-automation and process-control systems, and air-conditioning equipment.