

New GC for Direct Buy

News In Brief:

Date: 07-10-2007

New GC for Direct Buy

DirectBuy has named Joe Yast as its new vice president and general counsel. Yast will handle all contract matters, manage all litigation matters, and assist with general legal advice to various departments of the company. He will work with the executive management group on issues affecting the company and its operations. Yast, who has 30 years of legal experience, started his own business litigation practice in 1992. DirectBuy is a leading home design showroom center catering directly to homeowners and carrying products ranging from kitchen and bath cabinets to appliances to carpet and flooring.

Barker Capital hires new GC

Leading investment bank Barker Capital has announced the appointment of Timothy P. Olson as managing director and general counsel. Before joining Barker Capital, Olson was attorney at Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz, and Smith, LLP (Sioux Falls) and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP (Chicago). During his nine-year tenure at Skadden, Olson was known for his expertise in corporate restructuring matters. He was also a member of the Order of the Coif, the DePaul Law Review, and an executive editor of the DePaul Business Law Journal. Barker Capital is a leading investment banking firm and a supplier of private debt capital to the media industry. The company's investment banking activities include providing solutions to clients on acquisitions, restructuring the balance sheet, private equity, and senior debt formation in transactions aggregating more that \$215 million.

Osborn nominated by the president as a member of advisory commission

John E. Osborn, executive vice president and general counsel of Cephalon, Inc., has been nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. Osborn previously served as special assistant to the legal adviser with the US Department of State, and before that worked with former US Representative Jim Leach and late US Senator John Heinz. Osborn worked for several presidential campaigns and served as one of the five national members of the Board of Governors of the East-West Center. The US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy is a seven-member panel set up by Congress in 1948 to manage all US government activities intended to understand, inform, and influence the foreign public.

HCC Insurance appoints new GC

HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., has appointed Randy D. Rinicella as the company's senior vice president and general counsel. Rinicella has an MBA from the Nance College of Business Administration at Cleveland State University. He earned his J.D. from the Cleveland Marshall College of Law, has 20 years of legal experience, and was most recently associated with Dresser-Rand Group, where he served as vice president, general counsel, and secretary. HCC Insurance Holdings, Inc., is headquartered in Houston, TX, and is a leading international specialty insurance group with offices across the nation, assets of more than \$7.6 billion, and locations in Bermuda, Spain, Ireland, and the UK.

Traeger new GC for Gallop, Johnson & Neuman

John W. Traeger, a law partner with Gallop, Johnson & Neuman, LC, in St.

Louis, has been appointed internal general counsel. Traeger will be responsible for potential issues related to legal compliance, mentoring, and legal education. He will also manage recruiting matters concerning attorney-client privilege and confidentiality. Traeger, a member of Gallop, Johnson & Neuman's real estate practice, also chairs the firm's environmental law practice. He served as internal corporate counsel for Ralston Purina Company and Continental Baking Company in St. Louis before he joined Gallop, Johnson & Neuman in 2000. Gallop, Johnson & Neuman has been serving clients around the globe for more than 30 years.

Fischer joins Zecco Holdings as GC

Zecco Holdings has hired Barry Fischer as general counsel. He will also serve as chief compliance officer for the Zecco.com brokerage firm, Zecco Trading. Fischer was the president and chief operating officer of JB Oxford & Company and its sister brokerage firm, National Clearing Corporation, from 2001 to 2007. He started his career as a private practice attorney in 1986 and practiced independently until 1998. With 20 years of experience, Fischer is the most recent addition to Zecco's growing executive team. The brokerage firm has added five senior-level professionals since it was launched last autumn. Zecco Holdings, Inc., headquartered in Burlingame, CA, is the company behind the online financial portal for free stock trading Zecco.com.

GC of State Fund asked to step down

The California State Compensation Insurance Fund's board of directors has decided to appoint a new general counsel in place of Charles Savage, who has been asked to step down. State Fund, which is California's largest workers' compensation insurer, provides employment to 824 people in the greater Sacramento area. Savage has been with the organization for the last 29 years.

He will be demoted to assistant chief counsel in the corporate legal department. State Fund's president and vice president were asked to step down a few months back, and new candidates were hired for these posts.

IRI hires new GC

IRI, a "leading provider of consumer, shopper, and retail market intelligence," has announced the appointment of Teresa M. Sebastian as senior vice president and general counsel. Sebastian has vast experience in the fields of securities and project finance and expertise in the area of analysis and development of global business ventures with Fortune 500 companies. In her new position, she will be looking after all corporate legal issues for the company. Before joining IRI, Sebastian served DTE Energy Company as assistant general counsel and assistant corporate secretary. She has also served in various legal and financial positions at Sommers, Schwartz, Silver & Schwartz; Michigan Consolidated Gas Company; Morgan Stanley; and other financial organizations.

MedCath appoints new GC and VP

MedCath Corporation has appointed Blair W. Todt as vice president and general counsel. Todt will be responsible for managing all legal operations of the corporation, including joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions. Prior to joining MedCath, Todt served Universal Health Services as the director of quality management and performance improvement. He has also been the associate general counsel at BearingPoint, Inc., a management and technology consulting firm. Blair's vast experience in regulatory compliance and healthcare will be a valuable addition to MedCath's team. With its headquarters in Charlotte, NC, MedCath Corporation is a healthcare provider excelling in diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

