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Faegre & Benson Receives Sager Award for Diversity Initiatives

March 24, 2004

The Minority Corporate Counsel Association has awarded Faegre & Benson the Thomas L. Sager Award for the Midwest Region. The Sager Award is presented annually to law firms across the country that demonstrate a sustained commitment to the hiring, retention and promotion of minority attorneys. The award will be presented on March 31, 2004 in Chicago at the MCCA Diversity Dinner Series honoring Employers of Choice.

The Minority Corporate Counsel Association, founded in 1997 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., created the Sager Award as a tribute to DuPont Assistant General Counsel Thomas L. Sager, in recognition of his dedication to increasing diversity in the legal profession.

Faegre & Benson's diversity efforts focus on recruiting, retention, mentoring and promotion, including internal programming to build awareness, collaboration with community and bar associations, and peer and client networking. In 2003 the firm adopted a formal diversity plan that establishes specific diversity goals, identifies committees and personnel principally accountable for achieving those goals and serves as a resource for everyone in the firm.

"We are committed to sustained, measurable results in our diversity initiatives. Achieving those goals requires organization and focus," said Charlie Ferrell, the firm's Diversity Partner and a member of the firm's management committee. Ferrell, a partner in real estate law, was named in 2002 as the firm's Diversity Partner, bringing top level management accountability to diversity issues at Faegre & Benson. The firm also created a staff position, Diversity Coordinator, to provide support for Ferrell and for the firm's 11-person Diversity Committee in designing and implementing diversity-related initiatives.

"Diversity is a core value at Faegre & Benson," said Ferrell. "Our lawyers and staff have been leaders in promoting career opportunities for women, minorities and GLBT individuals, and in establishing a more supportive culture inside and outside the firm. We're proud to have our efforts recognized by the MCCA - but we also know that this is an ongoing process for us and for the entire business community."

Faegre & Benson offers more than 475 lawyers from offices in Minneapolis, Denver, Boulder, Des Moines, London, Frankfurt, and Shanghai. In 2002, 2003, and 2004, an independent survey of corporate counsel in Fortune 1000 companies throughout the U.S. ranked the firm among the top 20 law firms in the country for client service, one of only nine law firms to be included in the rankings all three years.



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