



For Immediate Release

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Hatch & Parent Announces Practice Expansion

Santa Barbara, CA. March 29, 2004 – Hatch & Parent, the largest law firm based on the Central Coast, announced today another step in the growth of its statewide presence and the reorganization of its transactional practice.

The firm has enlarged its Los Angeles and Thousand Oaks offices, adding land use and business lawyers to service clients from those locations. The firm also anticipates the enlargement of its San Diego office. These moves mark Hatch & Parent's continued commitment to provide a local presence for the clients that draws on the firm's broad range of skills from throughout California.

Beginning April 1, 2004, the firm's business, real estate and trusts and estates lawyers will be combined into a single practice group that will handle business, real estate, land use, and complex tax matters, including estate planning, using a more comprehensive and integrated approach to the delivery of legal services. By combining the new Business, Tax and Real Estate Group with the firm's specialists in intellectual property, employment law and business litigation, Hatch & Parent will improve its ability to serve the firm's clients throughout the state.

"Our real estate clients need sophisticated transactional and business advice, and tax planning, in addition to their basic real estate and land use work," said Steven A. Amerikaner, Hatch & Parent's managing partner. "Our business clients regularly engage us to handle their tax, wealth management, real estate and land use problems, and our sophisticated trusts and estates practice regularly spawns business, real estate, and land use issues. With an integrated team of specialists who regularly brainstorm to resolve clients' problems, we will do the best possible job of identifying and solving legal problems across practice borders."

"Increasingly, our clients have activities throughout California and have a need to draw from a diverse pool of experienced lawyers," said Susan F. Petrovich, a longtime partner who will head up the Business, Tax and Real Estate Group. George Short, a firm partner and tax law specialist who focuses on wealth management, estate planning and business planning matters, will assist Ms. Petrovich. Mr. Short will work with the attorneys to establish client service teams that, he says, "will be staffed to enable our clients to anticipate and manage the myriad of issues and planning opportunities they face before the issues turn into problems and the opportunities are lost."

ABOUT HATCH & PARENT: Hatch & Parent is a law firm of specialists, with more than 40 attorneys in six offices throughout California, including Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, Thousand Oaks and South Lake Tahoe. For more information on Hatch & Parent, please visit our web site at www.HatchParent.com.

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