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**WORLD MINERALS ATTORNEY JOINS HATCH & PARENT TO HEAD
EXPANDING GENERAL COUNSEL PRACTICE**

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.— Arnold E. Brier, former assistant general counsel and chief compliance officer at World Minerals, Inc., has joined the California law firm of Hatch & Parent. Brier will head the firm's expanding general counsel practice to serve businesses that need ongoing legal counsel but do not have a full-service in-house legal department.

"There is a strong demand for business lawyers with broad and deep experience in a number of practice areas," according to Steven A. Amerikaner, Hatch & Parent's managing partner. "Arnie has that kind of experience, including work on a number of international legal problems, and will be a significant help to the firm's business clients."

"Businesses that operate without in house counsel often wait until a problem develops into a full-blown crisis before consulting an attorney," says Amerikaner. "Many of these legal problems can be avoided or quickly resolved if the company has available general counsel to regularly review its operations, identify potential legal problems and take appropriate action."

As part of the its business client service, Hatch & Parent general counsel attorneys become familiar with the inner workings of client businesses. This enables the law firm to quickly provide efficient help to the client when legal assistance is needed in drafting contracts, agreements and employee-related documents, and negotiating financing and real estate transactions.

While at World Minerals, a \$300 million multinational material science company, Brier was involved in large-scale asset purchase agreements, corporate restructuring, formation, merger and dissolution of business entities, major bank financing, credit transactions and international distributor and supply agreements. He also supervised the work of outside counsel in many parts of the world. Prior to joining World Minerals, Brier worked as as senior counsel with Mobil Oil and was responsible for all employee relations issues and major real estate acquisition negotiations and agreements.

"Hatch & Parent's general counsel practice will greatly enhance the ability of a small business to stay abreast of new laws and regulations and better compete in today's marketplace," says Brier.

Hatch & Parent is a full-service law firm with expertise in corporate and tax, complex litigation, public agency, water law, real estate and land use, environmental quality, trusts and estates, employment law, appellate law and legislative advocacy. The firm has offices in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and South Lake Tahoe. www.hatchparent.com.

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