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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MURTHA CULLINA WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATES

**HARTFORD, CONN. (November 29, 2007)**...Murtha Cullina LLP is pleased to announce that the following have joined the firm as associates: Debbie C. Albrecht, Genea O. Bell, Meredith C. Burns, Christopher R. Drake, Lauren R. Holland, Michael A. LaMagna, and Cherie G. Phoenix.

Debbie C. Albrecht, who is resident in the Hartford office, is an associate in the Energy and Water Practice Groups. Ms. Albrecht received her B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Quinnipiac University and her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Quinnipiac University School of Law.

Genea O. Bell, who is resident in the Hartford office, is an associate in the Litigation Department. Ms. Bell received her Bachelor of Music in Viola, from The Juilliard School, an M.S. in Elementary Education, from City University of New York, College of Staten Island and her J.D., from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Meredith C. Burns, who is resident in the Hartford office, is an associate in the Litigation Department. Ms. Burns represents clients in bankruptcy and creditors' rights matters. She served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Judith Fabricant, Associate Justice of Middlesex Superior Court. Ms. Burns received her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from the University of New Hampshire and her J.D., *cum laude*, from Suffolk University Law School.

Christopher R. Drake, who is resident in the Hartford office, is an associate in the Litigation Department. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Drake served as a judicial clerk for United States Magistrate Judge Thomas P. Smith of the U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut. Mr. Drake received his B.A., from Fordham University and his J.D., *with honors*, from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Lauren R. Holland, who is resident in the Boston office, is an associate in the Litigation Department. Previously, Ms. Holland was a student prosecutor for the Suffolk County DA's Office of Boston Municipal Court. Ms. Holland also served as an intern for the Honorable Raymond J. Brassard of Middlesex Superior Court. Ms. Holland received her B.A., from the College of the Holy Cross and her J.D., from Northeastern University School of Law.

Michael A. LaMagna, who is resident in the New Haven office, is an associate in the Long Term Care Practice Group. Mr. LaMagna is a licensed Nursing Home Administrator in Connecticut and New York. Mr. LaMagna received his B.A., from Clark University, a Masters in Public Administration from Long Island University Graduate School, where he is an Adjunct Professor, a Post Graduate Certificate in Long Term Care Administration from Quinnipiac University and his J.D., from Pace University Law School.

Cherie G. Phoenix, who is resident in the Hartford and New Haven offices, is an associate in the Real Estate and Telecommunications Practice Groups. Ms. Phoenix received her B.S., and M.B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Florida A & M University and her J.D., *cum laude*, from Pace University Law School, where she was the former Student Bar Association President and also the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Governor of the American Bar Association Law Student Division.

With 130 attorneys in five offices in Connecticut and Massachusetts, Murtha Cullina offers a full range of legal services. From our base in New England, we are able to serve the local, regional, national and international needs of our clients. Our practice encompasses litigation and transactional representation of businesses, governmental units, non-profit organizations and individuals. Core practice areas include bankruptcy and creditors rights, business immigration, commercial finance and lending, construction, corporate, environmental and land use, insurance coverage for policyholders, international business, labor and employment, litigation, municipal law, public finance, real estate and trusts and estates. The firm represents clients across a broad spectrum of industry groups and provides specialty legal services to the agricultural, cable television, energy, telecommunications, health care, long term care, motor vehicle, real estate and housing, and retail and hospitality industries.

Murtha Cullina is the exclusive member firm for Connecticut of Lex Mundi, the world's leading association of independent law firms. Murtha Cullina is also a member of World Services Group and State Law Resources.

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