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**NAN M. BIRDWHISTELL APPOINTED TO THE MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES
AND REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES COMMISSION**

NEW HAVEN, CT (February 5, 2010)...Murtha Cullina attorney Nan M. Birdwhistell was recently appointed to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE) and will co-chair the Town Functions Subcommittee.

The objective of MORE is to identify opportunities for regional collaboration that will help municipalities create efficiencies and save money. It is comprised of six committees, each tasked with investigating mandate relief, costs, resources, opportunities, potential cost savings and more. MORE was launched by House Speaker Christopher G. Donovan (D-Meriden) and House Majority Leader Denise Merrill (D-Mansfield) and will recommend legislation during the 2010 session and thereafter.

Ms. Birdwhistell is uniquely positioned to be an influential member of the commission. She is a former First Selectwoman of Woodbridge and has previously served as the Chair of the South Central Connecticut Council of Governments, Vice President of the Council of Small Towns (COST), and on the Board of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. In addition, Ms. Birdwhistell served as the Senior Vice President of Regional Affairs at the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, a position she originated.

Ms. Birdwhistell is part of Murtha Cullina's Municipal Law Practice Group which provides legal counsel to towns on matters ranging from land use planning and employment and labor issues to contracts, commercial matters and other general legal matters.

About Murtha Cullina LLP

With over 130 attorneys in six offices throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts, Murtha Cullina LLP offers a full range of legal services to meet the local, regional, national and international needs of our clients. Our practice encompasses litigation, regulatory and transactional representation of businesses, governmental units, non-profit organizations and individuals. Core practice areas include litigation, labor and employment, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, construction, energy, health care, trusts and estates, affordable housing, real estate, land use, retail and hospitality, international business and Islamic financing. Murtha Cullina is the exclusive Connecticut member firm in Lex Mundi, the world's leading association of independent law firms.

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