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HEGGENESS, SWEET, SIMINGTON & PATRICO AND MENTZ, FINN & McDOWELL ANNOUNCE MERGER AGREEMENT

San Diego and San Francisco, CA, May 10, 2010 – Heggeness, Sweet, Simington & Patrico, A P.C., a prominent Southern California workers’ compensation defense firm and respected Northern California workers’ compensation defense firm Mentz, Finn & McDowell, A P.C. today announced an agreement to combine operations as of June 1, 2010.

HSSP, whose corporate offices are located in San Diego, presently provides employers, insurers and third party administrators litigation services for the defense of workers’ compensation claims from San Diego to Los Angeles. The merger with MFM will increase its service area throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

"This transaction brings together two industry leaders who share the same philosophy of creatively and doggedly fighting for our clients’ interests. We will first focus on expanding service to our existing clientele so employers and carriers can have continuity in legal representation," said Margot E. Simington, HSSP CEO. "By consolidating the strengths of each firm, we will provide clients with expanded expertise, broader innovative file handling and a powerful network of lawyers uniquely prepared to defend their claims."

“Over the years, MFM has considered potential expansion opportunities at the urging of our clients. However, we had concerns regarding dilution of quality.” said Tom Finn, CEO of MFM. “We are pleased to be joining forces with HSSP as they share our philosophy of hard work, implementing cutting edge legal strategies, employing the most qualified attorneys and presenting clients with fair and ethical billing.”

HSSP was most recently in the news earlier this year for its role as lead counsel in the unprecedented legal victory against *Premier Medical*, wherein some \$70 million of alleged fraudulent medical bills were dismissed.

The merged firm will be known as Heggeness, Sweet, Simington & Patrico, A P.C., serving WCAB District Offices in San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Ana, Anaheim, Long Beach, Pomona, Los Angeles, Van Nuys, Marina Del Rey, Oakland, San Francisco, Santa Rosa, San Jose and Salinas.

Read more at www.HSSPLaw.com

