

HILL & KNOWLTON

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact

Steve Aiello
Hill & Knowlton USA
212/885-0340

Sid Davidoff
Davidoff Malito & Hutcher LLP

**Hill & Knowlton New York Forms Strategic Alliance
With Davidoff Malito & Hutcher and Empire Strategies**

Strengthens New York State and City Public Affairs Offer

NEW YORK, December 7, 2004 - Hill & Knowlton New York today announced a strategic alliance with Davidoff Malito & Hutcher LLP and Empire Strategies - premier firms in their respective industries - to provide clients with a unique public affairs resource in developing and implementing government relations and lobbying strategies in New York State and New York City.

"For over 30 years the principals at both Davidoff Malito & Hutcher and Empire Strategies have been considered among the best there is by clients, industry consultants, and other competitors in legislative, government and regulatory affairs. Combined with H&K's renowned global public affairs network, we offer seasoned insights, connections and experience to clients whose business interest rely upon building relationships and working with state and city government," said Steve Aiello, Senior Counselor, Public Affairs, Hill & Knowlton New York.

Davidoff Malito & Hutcher is recognized as one of New York's preeminent lobbying firms. As one of the largest lobbying organizations in Albany and New York City, the firm has advocated on behalf of numerous Fortune 500 clients, associations and services organizations on diverse issues including the expansion of the Arthur Ashe Stadium, one of the city's most successful public-private partnerships, and the development of the John F. Kennedy International Airport Air Train, which involved all aspects of government relations, public affairs, and community, third party, and media outreach.

"I have felt for some time that clients who are dealing with New York City and New York State government often need a combined effort of legal advice, government expertise, public relations

and, in many cases, the ability to reach out for public support. The alliance with Hill & Knowlton, Empire Strategies and Davidoff Malito & Hutcher will afford these clients all these areas of expertise in once place. We are very excited about joining forces and look forward to servicing our clients with more resources and more talent than ever before," said Sid Davidoff, partner, Davidoff Malito & Hutcher LLP.

Empire Strategies is a government consulting firm that has successfully serviced clients particularly in the health and hospital, construction, engineering, and architecture industries. For the last several years, Empire Strategies and Davidoff Malito & Hutcher have worked closely together to provide services needed by clients who have or are hoping to have business dealings with New York City and State governments. The firm is headed by Robert Boyle, former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Javits Convention Center, former Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and presently Chairman of the Jacob Javits Convention Center Board.

"For the last several years, I have helped clients in both the private and public sectors understand one another and in doing so accomplish their business and civic goals. Teaming the Hill & Knowlton will add another dimension and greater value to what the alliance brings to clients," said Boyle.

Hill & Knowlton has been recognized as #1 in Public Affairs for six consecutive years by the Thomas L. Harris/Impulse Research Survey.

About Hill & Knowlton, Inc.

Hill & Knowlton, Inc. is a leading international communications consultancy, providing services to local, multinational and global clients. The firm is based in New York, with 71 offices in 37 countries, as well as an extensive associate network. The agency is part of WPP Group plc (NASDAQ: WPPGY), one of the world's largest communications services groups.

About Davidoff Malito & Hutcher LLP

Davidoff Malito & Hutcher LLP is a full service corporate law firm with offices in Manhattan, Garden City, Melville, Albany, Newark, N.J. and Washington, D.C. With a prominent government relations practice, the firm is in a category by itself among local law firms, in that it provides a full range of legal and lobbying services to businesses ranging from Fortune 500 multinational corporations to middle market and early-stage growth companies.

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