

April 2008

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## Hunton & Williams LLP Ranks #1 for Announced Worldwide M&A Deals on Thomson Financial List

Hunton & Williams LLP advised clients on \$115 billion in transactions in the first quarter of 2008, earning a #1 ranking for advising on announced deals worldwide in Thomson Financial's first quarter league tables.

This top ranking is due in large part to the firm's representation of both the parent corporation and the subsidiary in Altria Group's spin-off of Philip Morris International, valued at \$113 billion.

The firm placed prominently in several other categories, demonstrating its strength as a leading advisor on M&A transactions across the globe:

- #2 Worldwide Completed
- #1 Any US Involvement Announced
- #1 Any US Involvement Completed
- #1 Any Public Involvement Completed
- #1 Top European Involvement Announced by Target Industry (Consumer Staples)
- #2 Any European Involvement Announced
- #2 Any European Involvement Completed
- #12 Any Brazilian Involvement Announced
- #17 Any Latin America Involvement Announced

The firm has advised on several other deals in the first quarter of 2008, including:

- representing American General Finance in the \$1.5 billion acquisition of assets from Equity One and its affiliates;
- representing Smithfield Foods, Inc. in its agreement to sell its beef processing and cattle feeding operations to Brazil's JBS S.A., the world's largest beef producer, in transactions valued at \$815 million;
- representing Progress Energy, Inc. in the sale of several subsidiary companies to an investor group for \$94 million;
- representing an English company, Island Gas Limited, in its sale to KP Renewables Plc (since renamed Island Gas Resources Plc);
- representing Harvest Equity Partners and other shareholders of Shearer's Foods in the sale of that company to Mistral Equity Partners; and
- representing Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas, S.A. on its acquisition of Hydrocarbon Recovery Services, Inc. and International Petroleum Corp. of Delaware.

Jerry Whitson, head of the firm's Business Practice Group, said: "These rankings reflect the extraordinary work of our M&A lawyers and demonstrate the confidence placed in our firm by our long-time clients who rely on us to handle their most significant transactions."

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