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Bay Area Law Firms Go Bananas for Charity with the 2004 Koko® Challenge

Competition to Claim Stuffed Gorillas Results in Over \$900,000 Raised for the Community

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., January 20, 2005 — Today, the Bay Area General Counsel Group and United Way of the Bay Area announced the 2004 Koko Challenge Award Winners, recognizing law firms who went above and beyond in their fundraising campaigns, excelling in total dollar results, number of employees that participated, innovation, and other criteria.

Fifteen participating firms raised more than \$ 900,000 for charitable causes, setting a standard of excellence in philanthropy for the rest of the business community. The major award winners each receive a huge, furry, stuffed toy gorilla with a medallion or knitted banana sash around its' neck listing the past winners. These Koko toys, based on a female gorilla of the same name that learned sign language, were donated by Dakin & Co. when the contest originated.

The three top award winners for overall excellence are Gordon & Rees LLP; Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP; and Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP, who are proudly displaying their Kokos in their workplaces as a reminder of their accomplishments and impact on the community. The other award recipients are: Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP; Morrison & Foerster LLP; Keker & Van Nest, LLP; McKenna Long & Aldridge; Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP.

One special prize is awarded to Joe Brusky of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, who was named the "Top Banana" for his dedication as the coordinator of his firm's campaign, with more than 90% of employees participating. Also highlighted was Keker & Van Nest, LLP, which received the Koko Community Award for their strong support of United Way's Bay Area Community Fund.

Christopher C. Kearney, Managing Partner, Kecker & Van Nest, LLP, is especially pleased that the majority of donations raised were supporting United Way of the Bay Area. "I was delighted by the strong support our firm's employees gave United Way's Community Fund. United Way makes it possible for us to do things that no one person or company can do alone – helping individuals and families lead more independent, sustainable lives."

About the Bay Area General Counsel Group

The Bay Area General Counsel Group is an affinity group of in-house Counsel from many Bay Area corporations. The Koko Challenge is an annual philanthropic effort that allows the The Bay Area General Counsel Group to strengthen ties with both the non-profit and legal communities through its partnership with United Way of the Bay Area.

About United Way of the Bay Area

UWBA is a non-profit philanthropic organization and the largest private funder of health and human services in Northern California. Working in collaboration with other private and public investors, UWBA brings people, information, and resources together to solve complex community problems by leveraging what works and making strategic investments in Bay Area projects and initiatives focusing on Education, Health, Safe Communities and Self Sufficiency. In alliance with more than 600 workplaces and 100,000 contributors, UWBA is the most trusted workplace giving choice among the region's businesses. For more information see www.uwba.org.

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