



J.E. ROBERT
C O M P A N I E S

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Andrew O'Brien Joins J.E. Robert Companies as
Director, Operations Counsel**

August 12, 2008, McLean, VA – J.E. Robert Companies (JER) announced today that Andrew O'Brien has joined the firm as Director, Operations Counsel. In this position, O'Brien will be responsible for preparation and negotiation of employment agreements, contracts for new and existing employees serving all JER offices, and will serve as counsel on employment law/legal issues. He will operate out of the firm's headquarter office in McLean, Virginia and will report to Connie Parker, Managing Director, Global Administration.

O'Brien comes to JER from Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett LLP, where he served as Associate in the Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits Practice Group. In this capacity, he provided counsel to private and public companies on the negotiation of executive employment and separation arrangements, and on the design and implementation of executive and employee compensation and non-qualified retirement programs. Before that he was an Associate in the Labor and Employment Practice Group at Proskauer Rose LLP, where he practiced in a wide variety of matters in the areas of employee benefits and executive compensation.

"We are extremely pleased to have Andrew join JER. He is a seasoned executive with solid experience structuring executive compensation and benefits programs for a wide variety of public and private companies," noted Parker. "His background, business experience and record of achievement make him the ideal addition to our team."

Earlier in his career, O'Brien held positions at a number of other firms, including McKenna, McGowan & O'Brien LLP and World Bank/Economic Development Institute. He also served as a Flight Medic/Crew Chief on a UH-60 Blackhawk medivac helicopter with the 236th Medical Company, Air Ambulance in the U.S. Army, where he provided medical air support in Northern Iraq as part of Operation Provide Comfort.

O'Brien holds a B.A. in English from Georgetown University and graduated magna cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School.

The J.E. Robert Companies is a real estate investment management company with more than 27 years of experience in sourcing, underwriting and managing a broad spectrum of real estate equity investments and debt products in the US, Europe and select emerging markets. A disciplined and opportunistic buyer and seller, JER has managed a total of nine private equity funds with \$4.7 billion in equity capital commitments in North America, Europe and Latin America. The firm also invests in CMBS, mezzanine financing and other structured debt products. Since 1997, JER has completed 170 separate investment transactions in 17 countries, representing \$17 billion in gross investments and more than 11,000 assets. For more information, visit www.jer.com.

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