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**TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP ANNOUNCES EXPANSION  
OF PUBLIC LAW AND FINANCE PRACTICE TO COLUMBUS**

The law firm of Tucker Ellis & West is expanding its Public Law and Finance Group, which will include a full-time presence in Columbus starting in early 2007. The Public Law and Finance Group is led by Chair Nick York and Vice Chair Matt Cox.

“We are enthusiastic about utilizing our capabilities to better serve our clients during this time of political transition and new energy in Columbus,” said York.

As part of its expansion, the firm has hired attorney Eric Weldele, most recently a Senior Deputy Attorney General for the State of Ohio. Prior to serving in that capacity Mr. Weldele was Director of Government Relations for a prominent Columbus lobbying firm.

With the new office in Columbus and the addition of Weldele, Tucker Ellis & West is able to offer a full service government representation practice to meet the legislative and administrative needs of its clients. In addition to its legislative and executive branch capabilities, the firm’s Public Law and Finance Group represents a variety of governmental entities at the state and local level in the areas of healthcare, real estate, labor employment and public finance.

Tucker Ellis & West is a 125+ attorney, full-service firm headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio with offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California.

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