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**RICHARDSON PLOWDEN'S STEVEN HAMM GETS \$2.2 MILLION FROM CLASS ACTION SUIT
DONATED TO USC SCHOOL OF LAW BUILDING CAMPAIGN**

COLUMBIA, S.C., October 6, 2006 – Shareholder Steven W. Hamm of Richardson, Plowden, Carpenter & Robinson, P.A., settled a massive class action suit earlier this year, which resulted in a payout of \$2.2 million to the University of South Carolina (USC) School of Law Building Campaign. The campaign kicked off in January 2006 with the goal of raising \$65 million in private and public funding within 18 months. Funds will go toward the construction of a new home for the USC School of Law.

“We’re committed to the success of this campaign because we’re convinced of the University’s commitment to the School of Law. We’re confident we’ll succeed in raising the

\$65 million and are looking at all potential funding sources,” says Hamm, co-chair of the Building Campaign Committee.

Hamm demonstrated his commitment, along with that of co-chair Mike Kelly and the late Brad Simpson, when they litigated and settled a ten-year-old class action suit that involved violations of the South Carolina Consumer Protection Code. The case ultimately went to the United States Supreme Court. The case was unique because the defendant asserted the plaintiffs could not proceed as a class action due to the presence of an arbitration clause. The award was uncollected, thus through the doctrine of cy pres, was available for charitable purposes.

“In a class action, when funds remain after payment to parties pursuant to the court order, the doctrine of cy pres is applied to permit use of the funds for other charitable purposes as approved by the court,” Hamm explains.

Settlement terms in the class action prohibit release of information about the case or the settlement, but plaintiffs’ lawyers obtained the consent of opposing attorney Rush Smith and the court for the distribution of \$2.2 million to the USC School of Law.

Hamm focuses his practice on administrative and regulatory law, appellate practice, banking, elections law, and legislative and governmental relations. Before joining Richardson Plowden, he served as the state consumer advocate and administrator of the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs for more than twelve years, representing the public before the South Carolina General Assembly and state and federal agencies.

About Richardson Plowden

Established in 1973, Richardson, Plowden, Carpenter & Robinson, P.A., is among the 15 largest law firms in South Carolina, with more than 30 attorneys in offices in Columbia and Myrtle Beach. A full service law firm, Richardson Plowden has more than 25 practice areas providing legal counsel to local, state and national clients. For more information, visit www.RichardsonPlowden.com.