

## **Blank Rome Names Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer**

### *Judge Nathaniel R. Jones to Build on Firm's Commitment to Diversity*

December 18, 2006—Blank Rome LLP announced today that it has named Judge Nathaniel R. Jones as the Firm's inaugural Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. Based in the Blank Rome's Cincinnati office, Judge Jones will oversee the Firm's overall diversity initiatives.

The decision to name a Chief Diversity Officer arises out of the ongoing efforts and recommendations of Blank Rome's Diversity Committee, as well as the Firm's strategic growth plan to integrate diversity into all business and civic activities.

"Judge Jones is a distinguished jurist and civil rights leader and I am delighted that he has accepted this position," said Carl M. Buchholz, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer. "The Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer will be key to enhancing Blank Rome's ability to delivering high quality legal services in a globalized economy. I am certain that Judge Jones' leadership will give substance and currency to Blank Rome's commitment to diversity and propel the Firm's success in this area."

While still serving on the bench Judge Jones played an active role in assisting the American Bar Association and various minority Bar associations to develop strategies of diversity and inclusion. Since joining Blank Rome he has worked with the Diversity Committee to shape initiatives he will now oversee.

As Chief Diversity Officer, Judge Jones will lead and manage all aspects of Blank Rome's diversity program, including the implementation and execution of the Firm's diversity plan, coordination of diversity activities and events, integration of diversity into the Firm's business plan, and communication on diversity both internally and externally. In addition, Judge Jones will identify and implement best practices in the area of recruitment and training of a diverse workforce and maintenance of an environment of inclusion.

"I am very pleased to be given this opportunity at Blank Rome," said Judge Jones. "Diversity is a core value of the Firm and I look forward to implementing Blank Rome's diversity vision as well as to executing that vision as a key business function of the Firm."

At Blank Rome, Judge Jones concentrates his practice in the areas of litigation and dispute resolution. Prior to joining the Firm, Judge Jones served as a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati from 1979 to 2002. He has taught at and maintains ties with a number of law schools.

Judge Jones is the recipient of many awards and honors, the most recent of which are the Just The Beginning Foundation's 2006 Trailblazer Award, the 2005 Metropolitan Award, presented annually to a local citizen who has made significant contributions to the unifications of the community in the business and civic worlds and the 2005 ABA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Fellows Award, given each year to a leader in the profession. He chaired the ABA Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice. Judge Jones was also recognized as a Great Living Cincinnati by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce in 1997 and

one of the “Fifty Most Influential Blacks in Cincinnati in the Last Half Century” by Radio Station WCIN and the Fifth Third Bank in 2003. He received the 2002 Thurgood Marshall Award from the National Bar Association’s Judicial Council and is a member of the National Bar Association’s Hall of Fame. On February 20, 2003, the United States Congress passed H.J.Res.2, officially naming the Nathaniel R. Jones Federal Building & United States Courthouse in Youngstown, Ohio.

Involved in countless professional and educational organizations, Judge Jones has made a tremendous impact on American society, particularly in civil rights matters. Judge Jones also frequently writes and lectures on civil rights issues. Actively involved in the legal community, Judge Jones recently appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee, which had been holding hearings on the nomination of Judge John Roberts to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Jones received his law degree from Youngstown State University Law School and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Youngstown State University. In addition, Judge Jones holds honorary degrees from 18 educational institutions, including Syracuse University, University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and Northeastern University School of Law.

#### **About Blank Rome LLP**

Blank Rome LLP is one of America’s largest law firms. With more than 500 attorneys serving clients across the globe, Blank Rome is an international law firm representing businesses and organizations ranging from Fortune 500 companies to start-up entities. Blank Rome helps its clients in all aspects of their businesses. The Firm’s practices cover areas including business tax; commercial and corporate litigation; employment benefits and labor; financial services; bankruptcy and financial restructuring; government relations; health law; intellectual property; maritime, international trade and procurement; matrimonial; privately held and emerging companies; product liability; public companies and capital formation; public finance; real estate; trusts and estates; and white collar, internal and government investigations. Blank Rome also represents *pro bono* clients in a wide variety of cases and matters. More information about the firm is available at [www.blankrome.com](http://www.blankrome.com).

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