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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **BROUSE MCDOWELL ANNOUNCES MERGER WITH EMERSON & SKERIOTIS**

AKRON, Ohio, Oct. 30, 2002 – Brouse McDowell, a Legal Professional Association, announced today it has merged with the Akron-based intellectual property firm of Emerson & Skeriotis, Co. LPA, effective Nov. 1, 2002.

“We are extremely pleased by the opportunity to integrate services with a well-respected firm such as Emerson & Skeriotis, Co.,” said Jerry Whitmer, managing partner of Brouse McDowell. “The integration of our two firms will enable Brouse McDowell to provide expanded intellectual property expertise and will give the attorneys at Emerson & Skeriotis full-service corporate and business counsel capabilities.”

Roger Emerson, managing partner of Emerson & Skeriotis, said, “Increasingly, business issues are intellectual property issues. Clients want their legal requirements to be met in a coordinated method. This merger addresses those needs and offers clients integrated solutions to their intellectual property needs.”

The combined firms will be known as Brouse McDowell, LPA, and will remain headquartered in downtown Akron.

With more than 70 attorneys, Brouse McDowell counsels clients in the areas of business and corporate, commercial, environmental, estate and succession planning, labor and employment and litigation. The firm has offices in Akron and Cleveland, Ohio.

Emerson & Skeriotis consists of seven attorneys with experience in patent, trademark, copyright prosecution and litigation.

Whitmer said that Brouse McDowell's innovative use of technology, combined with Emerson & Skeriotis' focus on intellectual property, gives the firm a competitive advantage.

"We believe that business confronts a wide-range of intellectual property issues central to their success," said Whitmer. "IP issues permeate the commercial marketplace, from web-based transactions to protection of trade secret and other valuable company information."

Brouse McDowell serves as legal counsel to Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, closely-held businesses and individuals. More about the firm can be found at [www.brouse.com](http://www.brouse.com).

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