

**Jackson and Hardwick and Morris & Schneider Will Merge
To Create Metro Area's Biggest Real Estate Law Firm**

*Covering Six States, Morris Hardwick Schneider Will Be
15th Largest Law Firm in Georgia*

ATLANTA, January 12, 2005— Industry leaders Jackson and Hardwick and Morris & Schneider, P.C., today announced plans to merge, creating metro Atlanta's biggest real estate law firm, the area's 15th largest law firm of any kind, and a Southeast legal powerhouse of more than 50 offices in six fast-growing states.

The two firms will become Morris Hardwick Schneider effective March 1, 2005.

The firm's management committee will include Arthur J. Morris, Nathan E. Hardwick, IV and Randolph H. Schneider.

The firm will consist of a total of 81 attorneys and 417 staff members, which places the new firm in 15th place in metro Atlanta according to standard rankings.

“By combining the talent, energy, and experience of two main players at a critical time in the industry, we expect to be able to provide an unparalleled level of service in a period

of great growth,” said Nat Hardwick, who will be managing partner of business and development.

Morris Hardwick Schneider will be headquartered in Atlanta with major operations out of six hub offices in Birmingham, Ala., Charlotte, N.C., Greenville, S.C., Nashville, Tenn., Tampa, Fla., and West Palm Beach, Fla. An additional 43 offices will serve local communities in these areas.

Through these offices, Morris Hardwick Schneider will serve 38 of the 100 fastest-growing counties in the U.S. and each of the fastest-growing counties in the Southeast. The firm expects to conduct an estimated 40,000 closings annually.

“We will now be able to serve our builders’ and lenders’ needs throughout the region,” said Art Morris. Mr. Morris, senior partner with over 25 years of experience in real estate closing law, pioneered systems used by many real estate firms today.

Randy Schneider, managing partner of operations, said, “We are committed to offering our clients the most technologically advanced solutions and the most efficient closing process available.”

The firm said its marketing program will be based on the slogan: “Exceeding expectations, one closing at a time.”

About the merging firms:

Jackson and Hardwick was established in 1994. The firm has 19 offices in metro Atlanta and three offices elsewhere in the Southeast. Morris & Schneider was founded in 1978 and has 42 offices across metro Atlanta and the Southeast.

(EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: List of counties attached)

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