

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bob Lawson joins BKD as general counsel

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – Neal Spencer, **BKD, LLP** chief executive officer, announces the addition of Bob Lawson as the firm's first general counsel.

Lawson, who officially begins May 11 as BKD's in-house attorney, will coordinate the firm's legal matters involving risk management, litigation, contracts, leases, client relations and certain personnel issues.

"Due to the complexity of running a top 10 firm, BKD has considered this position for some time, and it makes financial sense to have resources available in house to assist with communication and other matters currently handled by external counsel," Spencer says. "Bob is a great fit because he knows our firm well and his experience and background matches our values."

Lawson comes to BKD from the law firm Husch, Blackwell, Sanders, where he specialized in business and commercial litigation, as well as labor and employment related issues. He has also served as a Greene County Circuit Court Judge, which has jurisdiction over civil, felony, juvenile and domestic cases and the oversight of family, drug and probate courts.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, Arkansas Bar Association, Missouri Bar Association and the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. His civic and charitable activities include serving with Leadership Springfield, as a leader with Cub Scouts Pack 196 and Boy Scouts Troop 1, past president and member of the Ozark Counseling Center and long-time member and president-elect of Ozarks Food Harvest. He has also been a member of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Springfield Rotary Club. In addition, Lawson is an active member of Kingsway United Methodist Church.

Lawson is a 1979 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a B.S.B.A. degree and a 1983 graduate with a juris doctorate.

"This is an incredible opportunity and I look forward to guiding the firm through the myriad legal issues it faces every day," Lawson says. "I hope my 25 years of private law practice and judicial experience will prove to be a beneficial ingredient in the management of this growing, dynamic organization ... I look upon this role as advancing to the next level of my professional career. I'm excited to tackle the challenges presented as BKD's first general counsel."

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BKD, LLP with offices in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky,
Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma & Texas

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