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Discussion on 'Corporate Misconduct' planned

"Conducting an Internal Investigation: Legal and Corporate Issues" is the title of a panel discussion on corporate misconduct scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, at 8 a.m. in the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, 651 E. Jefferson, in Detroit.

The discussion, featuring a five-member panel, will be presented by PricewaterhouseCoopers L.L.P. in cooperation with the UDM School of Law. Admission to the program is free, although registration is required by faxing a response to (813) 329-3435 by Friday, August 31.

"A distinguished panel has been assembled that will focus on the dynamic relationship, both adversarial and cooperative, between the principal parties involved in a corporate investigation: the government (civil and criminal), the company, and the employees," said Albert Vondra of PricewaterhouseCoopers. "The panelist include representatives from the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, corporate counsel, outside counsel representing the employee, and a forensic investigative accountant."

The panelists will "address new developments in a number of subject areas," according to Vondra, including but not limited to:

- Factors in deciding whether to open a criminal investigation.

- Relationship between the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office.

- Typical investigative model, including the use of a grand jury to investigate corporate crimes.

- Seeking a waiver of the corporate privilege.

- Parallel investigations, especially with the SEC.

- Response of the corporation when it learns of employee misconduct.

- Advancement and indemnification of employees.

- Role of counsel representing the company.

- Role of counsel representing an employee.

- Factors in deciding whether to charge the employee and/or the company.

Alan Gershel, of the U.S. Department of Justice, will moderate the discussion. The panel will include: Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Hiyama; James Hoppe, special agent with the FBI; David DuMouchel, an attorney with Butzel Long; Joseph Papelian, corporate counsel at Delphi Corp.; and Albert Vondra, a CPA and attorney with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

A continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. will precede the program. The discussion is scheduled to run from 8 to 9:30.

For more information, call Lisa Doherty at (313) 394-6204.