

## **Morris, Manning & Martin Opens in Savannah Leading Local Lawyer to Establish Practice**

Atlanta/Savannah, GA (April 1, 2008) – Joseph R. “Rusty” Ross of Savannah, a well known and highly regarded healthcare lawyer, has joined Atlanta-based law firm Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP. In addition to focusing his practice on healthcare matters, Mr. Ross will also practice with the firm’s Real Estate group. He will remain based in Savannah.

Mr. Ross was previously Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, and was a partner at Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, P.C. for 14 years before that.

“Rusty has achieved a level of prominence in both the bar and the healthcare community that is extremely rare,” said Morris, Manning & Martin Managing Partner Bob Saudek. “He has practiced law in Savannah for more than 25 years, and has developed valuable contacts throughout the region and throughout the healthcare industry.”

Mr. Ross says he chose Morris, Manning & Martin because of its strong background in both healthcare and transactional law. He has maintained close relationships with a number of the firm’s partners, many of whom have numerous Savannah-regional clients in the healthcare, real estate and port sectors.

His extensive experience includes representing hospitals and physicians in liability and regulatory matters as well as litigation, acquisitions and joint ventures. He developed Memorial Health University Medical Center’s legal department and managed its Risk Management program as well as its Facilities Department. At various times he has also overseen its Corporate Compliance and Internal Audit Departments. He also has a strong background in commercial real estate and transactional law.

A member of the State Bar of Georgia, the South Carolina Bar and the Florida Bar, Mr. Ross is deeply involved with Savannah community activities. He is recent past chairman of Hospice Savannah, Inc.’s Board of Directors and also serves on the board of the First National Bank of Savannah, N.A. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Savannah Downtown, is a Vestryman at St. John’s Church and a Steward of the St. Andrew’s Society of Savannah.

He earned his MBA and JD from the University of Georgia, and his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University.

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He is one of four new attorneys joining the Atlanta-based law firm just this week. In addition to Mr. Ross, the firm added two new intellectual property partners to its Washington, D.C. office, as well as adding a lawyer to its Commercial Real Estate Lending group in Atlanta.

**About Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP**

Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP, ([www.mmmlaw.com](http://www.mmmlaw.com)) enjoys national prominence for its corporate finance, securities, mergers and acquisitions, litigation, technology, intellectual property, real estate and real estate capital markets, environmental, insurance and healthcare practices. The firm has offices in Atlanta, Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, Savannah and Washington, D.C.

**Morris, Manning & Martin's Healthcare Practice**

The firm's 14 healthcare attorneys practice exclusively in this area and, consequently, have in-depth knowledge of the sector. The team consistently helps clients properly structure their business relationships and transactions, comply with laws and regulations and achieve successful resolutions in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings.

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