

## **DAROTH CAPITAL ADVISES MESTEL & COMPANY AND HIRE COUNSEL IN THEIR SALE TO AN ESOP BACKED BY MANAGEMENT AND LONG POINT CAPITAL**

*Both companies sell their stock to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan*

NEW YORK, September 13, 2011 - Daroth Capital Advisors LLC is pleased to announce that Mestel & Company and Hire Counsel, national leaders in legal placement and temporary attorney staffing and review management, have sold their stock to the HCMC Legal, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). The ESOP will be extended to all qualified employees of the two companies as well as to the thousands of attorneys who work on a contract basis for Hire Counsel. Mestel & Company and Hire Counsel, both founded by attorney Lynn Mestel, become the first legal recruiting and staffing agencies to be employee owned. Daroth Capital Advisors LLC acted as exclusive financial advisor to Mestel & Company and Hire Counsel.

“This program enables us to recognize the outstanding work and dedication of our full-time recruiters and administrative staff as well as the thousands of professional temporary employees who work in corporations and law firms across America on our behalf,” said Mestel. “It also sends a strong signal to our clients that we are deeply committed to our core values of teamwork, integrity and professionalism and ensures a sustainable strategy to maintain our commitment for years to come.”

Mestel will continue as a major investor and President of the companies. Hire Counsel COO Willa Fawer and Mestel & Company COO Avery Ellis and Executive Director Sam Roberts as well as key managers, are also committed to working and remaining with the organization.

“This will make a huge difference for our employees, providing them with a significant equity incentive in our company and motivating them to continue to offer the best service to our clients,” Mestel said. “It gives them a chance to become owners of the company, and their stake will continue to grow with the business. Broad ownership of the company helps assure its longevity and success.”

The private investment firm Long Point Capital helped finance the transaction. Ira Starr, Managing Director of Long Point, said, “We are excited about partnering with Lynn and her employees. This transaction provides a strong platform for the management team to continue to grow the business and we believe that the ownership by the employees creates a competitive advantage in the legal staffing and placement industries.”

### About Mestel & Company and Hire Counsel

Founded in 1987, Mestel & Company is one of the largest legal placement companies in the country, with an associate and in-house counsel placement division, and a partner, group and law firms merger division. Hire Counsel, founded by Ms. Mestel in 1993, provides temporary and permanent legal staff, including attorneys, discovery specialists, paralegals, coders, litigation support professionals and contract administrators to corporate legal departments and law firms nationwide as well as e-discovery review management. The combined companies, which have tripled in size in the past five years, manage a network of over 50,000 attorneys and legal staff through 22 offices and interview facilities across the country, as well as perform lateral associate and partner placement for the American Lawyer's Top 100 and Top 200 ranked law firms in the country.

### About Daroth Capital Advisors LLC

Daroth Capital Advisors LLC provides a full array of financial advisory services to companies, financial sponsors and institutional investors including advice regarding M&A transactions, financings, and strategic planning. Daroth is a member of FINRA and SIPC, and is registered with the SEC as a broker-dealer ([www.daroth.com](http://www.daroth.com)). For more information regarding this transaction, please contact Peter Rothschild at (212) 687-2500.

More information about employee ownership is available from the National Center on Employee Ownership at [www.nceo.org](http://www.nceo.org).

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