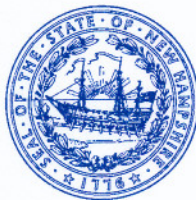


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW HAMPSHIRE TO RECEIVE \$337,500 IN SETTLEMENT WITH DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES AND THOMAS WEISEL PARTNERS

Concord (August 26, 2004) –New Hampshire stands to receive \$337, 500 as part of a settlement with Deutsche Bank Securities and Thomas Weisel Partners, LLC, said Barry Glennon, Deputy Director of the New Hampshire Bureau of Securities Regulation. The settlement results from an investigation by state and federal securities regulators into allegations of conflicts of interest at the brokerage houses where analysts recommended stocks due to improper influence from their investment banking colleagues.

Glennon made the announcement following investigations of the two firms by State Securities Regulators, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., and the New York Stock Exchange. The settlements are related to a Global Settlement involving ten other investment banks reached with the state, federal and industry regulators in 2003.

Deutsche Bank will pay a total of \$87.5 million: \$25 million in disgorgement, \$25 million as a penalty for various conflicts of interest, \$7.5 million for failing to

promptly produce e-mail records and thereby delaying the investigation by over a year, \$25 million to fund independent research, and \$5 million to fund and promote investor education. -- \$2.5 million of which to be distributed to the Investor Protection Trust, a charitable organization which will use the money to fund investor education initiatives on state and national levels.

Thomas Weisel Partners will pay a total of \$12.5 million: \$5 million in disgorgement, \$5 million as a penalty for various conflicts of interest, and \$2.5 million to fund independent research. Under the settlements, half of the disgorgement and penalty amounts will be paid by the two firms in resolution of actions brought by the SEC, NYSE and NASD, and will be put into funds to benefit customers of the firms. The remainder of the disgorgement and penalty amounts will be paid to state securities regulators.

Mr. Glennon said the investigations of Deutsche Bank and Thomas Weisel Partners, together with the Global Settlement Agreement entered are part of a comprehensive regulatory effort to reform the relationship between investment banking and research and to manage appropriately conflicts of interest. "Today's settlements represent a significant step in our continuing efforts to ensure that investors are treated fairly and provided with objective research," Mr. Glennon said. "These enforcement actions, coupled with pending reforms in the mutual fund industry, should help to restore investor confidence." Mr. Glennon said.

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