



Norris McLaughlin & Marcus Women's Forum 2nd Annual Fall Festival of the Arts Benefits Resource Center

Somerville, NJ — The **Norris McLaughlin & Marcus Women's Forum** raised over \$17,500 for Somerset County's **Resource Center for Women and Their Families** at its Second Annual Fall Festival of the Arts on October 16, 2008, at the Basking Ridge Country Club in Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

All proceeds from the Fall Festival of the Arts, a cocktail reception and live and silent auctions, were donated to Somerset County's Resource Center for Women and Their Families. "Once again this year, the Women's Forum is pleased to be able to make a substantial contribution to Somerset County's Resource Center for Women and Their Families, an organization that has been dedicated for decades to helping survivors of domestic abuse. Our firm's support for this charitable event is another example of its commitment to the Women's Forum, the community and worthwhile organizations, such as the Resource Center. We also extend our thanks to our firm attorneys and staff, as well as clients and friends of the firm, who helped the Women's Forum make this year's Fall Festival of the Arts such a success," stated Annmarie Simeone, Member of the firm and Chair of the Women's Forum's Charitable Events Committee.

"The funds the NMM Women's Forum raised for the Resource Center will help us to continue to provide the services that are needed by the victims of domestic violence. These are difficult economic times to raise money. This makes the Forum's efforts, on our behalf, especially appreciated this year," said Diane English, President of the Board of Trustees of the Resource Center for Women and Their Families.

In addition, the firm participated in the Cell Phone Collection Program to benefit the Resource Center. This program facilitates collection of used cell phones, which in turn are donated to the Resource Center. The Resource Center sends the cell phones to Shelter Alliance to be reconditioned and distributed to domestic violence victims. The Resource Center receives a small donation from Shelter



Alliance for each cell phone, with donations ranging from \$.50 to \$5.00 per phone.

The **Resource Center for Women and Their Families** is a private non-profit agency serving victims of domestic abuse in Somerset County. Its mission is to end domestic abuse and empower victims by providing protection, education, and resources to victims and their families. "Domestic abuse will affect one in four women sometime in their lives and 40% of teenage girls. We applaud the work being done by the Norris McLaughlin & Marcus

Women's Forum to help build awareness," said Executive Director Paloma Amar-Coleman. In 2007, the Resource Center provided services free of charge to 676 clients, provided 4,664 nights of safety to 85 women and children in their safehouse, housed 13 families in their transition housing program, provided 3,905 hours of counseling, outreach services and legal advocacy, answered over 3,521 hotline calls, and educated nearly 2,700 individuals about domestic abuse.

The **Norris McLaughlin & Marcus Women's Forum** is comprised of approximately 30 women attorneys who excel in their areas of legal expertise. The mission of the NMM Women's Forum is to promote the advancement of all women, while drawing on the particular legal expertise of its members in cooperation with other women leaders throughout New Jersey and New York. The Fall Festival of the Arts is part of the commitment of the NMM Women's Forum to charitable and social activities geared toward women in business and leadership roles.

For more information on the NMM Women's Forum, please visit www.nmmlaw.com or email womensforum@nmmlaw.com.

721 Route 202-206, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
T 908-722-0700, F 908-722-0755
875 Third Avenue, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10022
T 212 808-0700, F 212 808-0844



Norris McLaughlin & Marcus has been serving the business community of the New Jersey and New York metropolitan area since 1953. Once a humble two-man practice on Main Street in Somerville, New Jersey, Norris McLaughlin & Marcus has become the largest firm in Somerset County and one of the top 20 firms in the state, with a significant presence in New York City.

Norris McLaughlin & Marcus' clients run the gamut, from Fortune 500 corporations to smaller publicly and privately held companies to start-up companies and individuals. The attorneys, with staff assistance, provide legal services in nearly every area of business law. A full practice area listing can be found at www.nmmlaw.com.

The firm's more than 100 attorneys come from diverse backgrounds, hold degrees from top U.S. law schools and regularly serve as leaders in bar associations and various trade groups. With 21 of its members listed as the Best Lawyers in America for 2008, in addition to an active repertoire of speaking engagements and legal publications, attorneys at Norris McLaughlin & Marcus embody large-firm talent in a small-firm setting. This combination of legal talent and personable surroundings allows attorneys at Norris McLaughlin to provide service and value to their clients on an individual level. It is the goal of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus to accommodate the needs of every client through the use of experience, strategic planning and common courtesy.

Norris McLaughlin & Marcus enjoys an international reputation for excellence through its membership in Meritas, the largest worldwide affiliation of high-quality, mid-sized law firms. With Meritas, Norris McLaughlin & Marcus is able to extend its services to clients in every state and in more than 70 foreign countries.