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Pender & Coward, PC Chooses Suffolk For Expansion Office

SUFFOLK, VA. April 28, 2005 – Pender & Coward, PC announced today that it has leased office space in historic downtown Suffolk in which to headquarter a Western Hampton Roads regional office. The Pender & Coward Building will be located at the corner of West Washington and Saratoga Streets. This expansion will provide clientele within the City of Suffolk and surrounding communities with the extensive legal expertise and technological resources of an experienced and prestigious law firm, while further contributing to the revitalization of the historic downtown area. The facility will be fully operational by September, 2005.

Pender & Coward anticipates initial capital investment to exceed \$400,000. They expect to start with a daily office staff of four, with that number to quickly expand in this high growth community. The Suffolk office will be completely networked with the home office in Virginia Beach. Closed circuit videoconferencing will allow the entire firm's broad complement of

attorneys and staff to have person to person contact capabilities with attorneys and clients in the Suffolk office.

Pender & Coward, PC is a full service law firm based in Virginia Beach, VA., with a rich history dating back to 1889. From its beginning, the firm has maintained an excellent reputation in the business and professional community throughout Southeastern Virginia. Indicative of the high regard in which Pender & Coward is held is the fact that, within the past ten years, two members of the firm have become Circuit Court Judges in the City of Virginia Beach and two have been invested as United States District Court Judges for the Eastern District of Virginia.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in the historic downtown Suffolk revitalization, and to grow with the community” said Richard H. Matthews, Chief Executive Officer of Pender & Coward. “It is an exciting time to be in Suffolk, and this firm looks forward to being a significant member of this community throughout our second century of legal service.” Matthews added that the Suffolk office of Pender & Coward will have the firm’s entire resources at its disposal, and that a number of very experienced attorneys will staff the office.

“We are extremely pleased that Pender & Coward, PC has decided to expand into our City” states Mayor Bobby Ralph. “With their excellent reputation in the business and legal community, and strong relationship with numerous existing clients, they will be a welcomed addition to our historic downtown.”

For employment opportunities at the new Suffolk location contact Nancy F. Hauser, Personnel Administrator or David L. Arnold at (757) 490-3000 or visit the firm’s website at www.pendercoward.com.

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