

**CONTACT:** Marty Semaan, Dykema Gossett PLLC 313-568-6767  
Dottie Miller, Dykema Gossett PLLC 313-568-5375  
Brian Kiefer, Weber Shandwick 312-988-2043

*For Immediate Release*

## **DYKEMA GOSSETT LAUNCHES MIDEAST PRACTICE INITIATIVE**

*New Practice Features Alliance with Fahmy Hudome International and Haveman Group to Assist Businesses with Inbound and Outbound Opportunities Involving the Middle East*

**Detroit, MI and Washington, D.C. – September 20, 2004** – In response to increased business opportunities involving the Middle East, Dykema Gossett PLLC, a Midwest law firm, today announced the formation of a Mideast Practice Initiative that will advise businesses and private individuals seeking to do business in the Middle East, as well as Middle Eastern companies and investors seeking inbound U.S. opportunities.

Leveraging the firm's highly regarded Government Policy Department, Dykema Gossett has formed a strategic alliance with Fahmy Hudome International, a consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. that focuses on government affairs and international energy issues, and the Haveman Group, a consulting and government relations firm specializing in healthcare and based in Grand Rapids, Mich.

“Our clients are increasingly more active in the international market and are turning to us for legal counsel, on-the-ground intelligence and relationships to secure international transactions,” said Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Dykema Gossett PLLC. “Fahmy Hudome International and the Haveman Group offer a complementary expertise that is a natural extension of our presence in Washington, D.C. and our historically strong Government Policy Department and international practice.”

Both consulting firms have strong Mideast business ties and are now well positioned alongside Dykema Gossett to respond to the complex issues surrounding both the energy and healthcare industries throughout the Mideast. Fahmy Hudome International is currently representing the government of Libya in various lobbying ventures and the Haveman Group's founder, James Haveman, recently returned from Iraq where he served as a White House-appointed health advisor.

### **Business Expansion Continues in the Middle East**

With businesses rapidly expanding their current operations into Israel, Iraq, Libya, Qatar and other Middle Eastern countries, the Mideast Practice Initiative will assist clients in maneuvering through the complex patchwork of U.S. laws governing investments and contracts in the Mideast. Dykema Gossett partner Richard McLellan, director of the firm's Government Policy Department, will lead the new initiative.

(more)

“Building on our current expertise, this alliance will enhance our ability to deliver a full range of international government relations and legal services to our clients tailored specifically to the Mideast – from those with a first-hand knowledge of the marketplace,” said McLellan.

“Middle East business is a complex mix of policy, politics and government regulation. Dykema Gossett’s regulatory expertise on both inbound and outbound matters will play a critical role in our clients’ success in these ventures.”

### **First-hand Experience in the Middle East**

The Mideast Practice Initiative features professionals with first-hand expertise across multiple international and regulatory disciplines, including:

**Richard McLellan** is a partner with Dykema Gossett and leader of both the firm’s Mideast Practice Initiative and Government Policy Department. Mr. McLellan has extensive international and governmental law experience and has also acted as Presidential Observer of elections in the People’s Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Nigeria.

**Randa Fahmy Hudome, Esq.**, is the president of Fahmy Hudome International, a strategic consulting firm focusing on international energy issues. Ms. Fahmy Hudome’s experience in the international affairs arena spans a decade and includes service in the executive and legislative branches, as well as the private sector. She served as the Associate Deputy Secretary of Energy during the first Bush administration and coordinated international policy objectives with the White House and the Departments of State and Commerce. Prior to her work with the previous Bush administration, she acted as Foreign Policy Counsel to Senator Spencer Abraham (R-MI) and practiced international trade law.

**Jim Haveman** is the president of the Haveman Group, and a former director of the Michigan Departments of Community Health, Public Health and Mental Health. Mr. Haveman recently returned from Iraq, where he served as the Coalition Provisional Authority’s (CPA) Senior Advisor to Iraq’s Ministry of Health and led the CPA’s efforts to rebuild Iraq’s decimated health care system. During his appointment in Iraq, Mr. Haveman gained indispensable knowledgeable about the opportunities and challenges facing U.S. concerns seeking to do business in Iraq.

**Jennifer Shoha**, a government relations professional with Dykema Gossett’s Government Policy Department in the firm’s Bloomfield Hills and Washington D.C. offices, is responsible for Dykema’s relationships with the Arab American business community. She is the former Director of Governor John Engler’s Southeast Michigan office and managed Michigan’s hosting of the G-8 Energy Ministerial Conference held in Detroit Michigan, May 2002.

**Judy Jenkins**, of counsel in Dykema Gossett’s Washington, D.C. office, focuses on antitrust and trade regulations matters, government contracts law and international trade. Previously Ms. Jenkins served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI).

(more)

**DYKEMA GOSSETT** PLLC

## About the Alliance Members

*Fahmy Hudome International is a government relations and strategic consulting firm based in Washington, DC specializing in international issues and the energy sector. Our founder, Randa Fahmy Hudome, draws on her vast experience in both the legislative and executive branches of government to provide superior strategy and service to an elite group of clients. If you have a need for representation or strategy in Washington DC, from a firm with strong international contacts, resources, and experience, FHI is the place to turn.*

*The Haveman Group is a consulting and government relations firm. We handle specific tasks, challenges and opportunities - quickly and in a cost-effective way. We will bring workable solutions to your needs that create sustainable working models of efficiency, quality and improvement of the bottom line. We strive to build on your strengths and maximize your effectiveness.*

*Dykema Gossett PLLC, based in the Midwest, is one of the country's largest and most respected legal services and public policy consulting firms. The firm is known for its highly experienced legal experts and focus on highly complex business situations and complex national litigation. Dykema Gossett advises domestic and foreign-based companies and institutions on a wide variety of business issues including corporate governance, growth strategies and risk reduction, regulatory compliance, international trade, e-commerce and many others. Its diversified practice, international reach and Midwest work ethic have made Dykema Gossett the choice of Fortune 100 companies and entrepreneurial enterprises. The firm has offices in California, Illinois, Michigan, and Washington, D.C.*

###

LAN01\128783.1  
ID\RDM

**DYKEMA GOSSETT** PLLC