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**Richard E. Mitchell, Washington Governor's General Counsel,
Joins Summit Law Group**

Mitchell to lead Real Estate Asset Group

SEATTLE, November 13, 2008 – Richard E. Mitchell, General Counsel for Governor Chris Gregoire, has announced that he will join Summit Law Group on December 8, 2008. Mitchell is leaving the Governor's office after four years and will lead Summit's Real Estate Asset Group, a multi-disciplinary practice involving real estate, land use, environmental, design and construction law.

"We are thrilled to have Richard join our team," says Polly L. McNeill, CEO. "He combines a deep understanding of public policy and legal issues related to design, construction and real estate that few lawyers can match. Richard's training and experience in real estate and construction litigation, property transactions, and urban planning and redevelopment brings a wealth of expertise to our team that will enhance our existing strengths."

Summit Law Group is a fundamentally different type of law firm, formed more than 10 years ago to provide exemplary, value-based legal services to corporate law departments, public sector organizations, emerging and established companies and high-net-worth individuals. Since its formation, Summit has received national recognition for its accomplishments in serving customers in the areas of employment, labor, corporate, securities, tax, environmental and trial law.

Mitchell joins Summit as a member, and will head its plans to launch Summit's real estate asset practice regionally and nationally. As General Counsel for Governor Gregoire, his responsibilities included serving as the Governor's designee on several authorities and commissions that issue tax-exempt bonds; recommending judicial appointments; evaluating requests to transfer state real property; reviewing executive orders, directives, and emergency proclamations; and numerous other duties.

“I am excited to join Summit Law Group,” says Mitchell. “The opportunity to serve the citizens of our great state as Governor Gregoire’s General Counsel has been invaluable and rewarding. I am looking forward to the new challenge of building on Summit’s success, broadening its areas of practice, and enhancing its prominence in the Pacific Northwest and nationally. Summit’s Real Estate Asset Group will provide a platform for me to realize a long-held objective of offering a multi-disciplinary practice that fully serves real estate needs from acquisition and development to occupation and sale.”

Mitchell earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree with honors from Cornell University. He then worked in London, England, with British architect Sir Terry Farrell, and Canadian developer Olympia York on the London Docklands Redevelopment in 1989. He received a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Michigan, and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Syracuse University’s College of Law.

Prior to Governor Gregoire appointing him as her General Counsel in January 2005, Mitchell was in private practice in Seattle. He specialized in design, construction, real estate, and general commercial disputes. Mitchell has served as a board member on the Washington Low Income Housing Network, Environmental Works, the City of Seattle’s Landmarks Preservation Commission and Zion Preparatory Academy. He is currently on Board of the King County Bar Association and International Community Health Services Foundation.

About Summit Law Group

Founded in 1997, Summit Law Group continues to revolutionize law practice through a wholehearted devotion to customer success. Non-traditional and innovative, Summit’s value-driven practice works with customers to achieve exceptional returns on their investments in legal counsel. Summit’s services encompass employment and labor; corporate and securities and tax; real estate, environmental and land use; and trial law. Summit’s talented professionals, lawyers and staff alike, provide exceptional customer service and guarantee superior results.

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