

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CARMEN P. BELEFONTE, ESQ., FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, MERGES PRACTICE
WITH SALTZ, MONGELUZZI, BARRETT & BENDESKY, PC
*Leading Delaware County Attorney to head SMBB's new Media Office***

PHILADELPHIA, PA (December 19, 2005) – Carmen P. Belefonte, Esquire, former President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and the Delaware County Bar Association, is merging his highly respected Media-based practice with Philadelphia's Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, PC, a leading, regional plaintiff's firm. Belefonte, who has received numerous awards and honors for trial advocacy in his more than 35 years of practice, effective January 1, 2006, will become the Managing Attorney of SMBB's new Delaware County Office.

Michael F. Barrett, Esquire, Managing Shareholder of SMBB, said the merger of the Belefonte practice is consistent with SMBB's strategy of growing the regional practice through a combination of new hires, lateral appointments, and mergers with best-in-class firms that share SMBB's dedication to helping victims and to the highest standards of professional practice.

"Carmen and his practice are the perfect fit for SMBB," says Barrett. "He has a long and distinguished career as a highly successful trial attorney, a public servant, and as one of the leading members of the legal profession in Delaware County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and throughout the United States. He will unquestionably be an asset to our firm as he directs our new Delaware County Office and, most importantly, to our clients."

Robert J. Mongeluzzi, Esquire, adds, "Carmen is the lawyer's lawyer known for obtaining positive results including substantial recoveries. He has successfully handled the toughest cases from medical malpractice to products liability and workplace catastrophes. He has been consistently recognized by his peers as a pillar of the legal community and he will be a great asset to our growing firm."

Belefonte, who will continue to practice from his offices at 20 West Third Street, Media, is anxious to begin the latest chapter in his prestigious legal career. "We have been approached by other firms about affiliating or merging, but only SMBB presented the right fit for our firm and for the citizens we serve in Delaware County. SMBB has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to consistently produce favorable results for clients in highly complex, resource-intensive, often precedent-setting cases. Our philosophy and styles are so similar that this was the perfect match."

Belefonte received the prestigious Guy G. Defuria, Esquire, award for outstanding professionalism in trial advocacy in Delaware County and is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a former member of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), and the Pennsylvania Bar Association Board of Delegates. Like the named partners at SMBB, Belefonte was selected by his Pennsylvania peers as a “**Super Lawyer**” in the 2005 *Super Lawyers* publication. He is certified to appear before numerous courts and tribunals including the United States Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Military Appeals. He began his legal career in the United States Army as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

Long involved in Delaware County’s civic and cultural activities, he serves as Solicitor to the Delaware County Police Chiefs Association, and the Garrettford-Drexel Hill Fire Company. He is also a member of the Board of the Upper Darby Educational and Cultural Foundation. The father of three daughters (Andrea is an attorney and was a member of his practice for 10 years before becoming a District Justice in Delaware County), he and his wife reside in Havertown.

Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, P.C. is dedicated to the representation of people who have been seriously or fatally injured. With offices Philadelphia, Media, and Voorhees, New Jersey, the firm specializes in highly complex cases, including those involving medical malpractice, catastrophic construction site and other workplace accidents, products and premises liability and civil rights. Its main office is located on the 52nd Floor of One Liberty Place in Center City Philadelphia. For further information call (215)496-8282 or visit www.smbb.com.