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Governor James R. Thompson to be the 2012 Legacy Award Honoree

Chicago, August 4, 2011 - Governor James R. Thompson of Winston & Strawn has been selected as the Chicago Business Legacy Award Honoree by the Jobs For Youth Legal Industry Council. Funds raised from this 7-month campaign will support the programs and services of Jobs For Youth. The campaign will culminate at a Gala in his honor in February of 2012.

“The vital programs Jobs For Youth is providing to the underserved young adults of Chicago are not only leading the way for opportunities for these motivated youth, but also driving economic growth and stability in our most challenged neighborhoods”, said Governor Thompson. “With more than 30 successful years and over 28,000 young adults trained and placed in jobs, this is an agency that has truly earned our support. I am proud to be involved, and I know that Winston & Strawn shares my excitement for this campaign.”

“The legal industry in Chicago is substantial, vibrant and compassionate,” said Jobs For Youth President and CEO Andrew Abrahams. “This campaign underscores the amazing impact of an industry coming together to make a difference in their communities, and we could not have better representatives of that attitude than Governor Thompson and Winston & Strawn.”

A one-time U.S. attorney for Chicago, Governor Thompson was listed in 1997 and 2000 by The National Law Journal as one of the nation’s 100 most influential lawyers. He served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Winston & Strawn from 1991 to 2006, as well as Chairman and CEO of the firm from 1993 to 2006. As Chairman, he oversaw the growth of the firm, both domestically and internationally. He presently serves as Senior Chairman. Governor Thompson is Chairman of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority and a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission. As Illinois’ longest-serving chief executive (14 years), Governor Thompson was noted for his skill in settling difficult labor-management problems, his ability to manage one of the nation’s largest public budgets while maintaining one of the nation’s highest state bond ratings, and his leadership role among his peers. Governor Thompson received a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in 1959. He has 17 honorary degrees.

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Jobs For Youth helps young men and women from low-income families become part of the economic mainstream, while providing the business community with motivated, job-ready workers. Jobs For Youth provides job-skill and life-skill training, job placement, a full GED attainment curriculum, specialized work skill training programs, and bridge programs to support post-secondary education goals. All at no cost to every participant.

The 2012 Legal Industry Council Honoree Gala will take place at the Hilton Chicago on February 23, 2012. For additional information about the campaign, please contact Janet Gow at (312) 499-4778 x129 or jgow@ifychicago.org. For additional information about Jobs For Youth, please visit <http://www.ifychicago.org>.

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