

Contact: Geoff Thompson  
Thompson & Bender  
(914) 762-1900  
[geoff@thompson-bender.com](mailto:geoff@thompson-bender.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins Merges With Bennett Kielson Storch DeSantis Forming One Of The Tri-State Region's Largest Professional Services Firms**

### ***Firms Combine Strong Commercial Practices With Noted Expertise In Public and Not-For-Profit Sectors***

**HARRISON, NY (June 16, 2003)** - Two of the region's most prominent accounting and consulting firms – O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins LLP (ODMD) and Bennett Kielson Storch DeSantis & Company LLP of White Plains – have merged to become one of the tri-state region's largest professional services firms.

The merger brings together two full-service organizations with similar corporate cultures. In addition to serving a broad base of clients including an extensive number of privately held and family-owned businesses, each of the firms has strong niches, ODMD in the not-for-profit organization and health care sectors and Bennett Kielson in the government and municipal services sectors.

By joining forces, the new Firm becomes a major accounting and consulting force in the region, with 25 partners and more than 200 professionals working from five local offices spanning New York City, Westchester, Northern New Jersey and Connecticut.

ODMD has four offices in the New York Tri-State area: Harrison, Manhattan, Paramus, NJ, and Stamford, CT. Bennett Kielson's office in White Plains will serve as the new Firm's fifth location, while functioning as a division within the merged Firm.

Beyond the multitude of family-owned and privately held businesses the combined Firm represents, ODMD brings approximately 750 not-for-profit organizations,

including more than 100 nursing homes in New York State. Bennett Kielson represents more than 100 municipal governments throughout the Hudson Valley Region, including six county governments: Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess and Sullivan.

Kevin J. Keane, Managing Partner of the new Firm, said that the merger “will enable us to serve our client base with the same localized and personalized service for which both firms have always been known. At the same time, the merger brings together a level of talent and expertise that is typically associated only with the major national firms. We think this is a great combination for our two firms -- and for our clients.”

He continued: “We are now perfectly positioned to serve both our solid base of business and commercial clients, as well as the niches for which each of our firms is so well known. Our five local offices across the region will provide our clients with the hands-on treatment that they expect and deserve, while merging the two firm’s talents will let us expand the services we offer.”

Les Storch, a partner at Bennett Kielson, said that the merger provides the ability to capitalize on the attributes of each firm. “Our firm is well known for our work with various levels of government and school districts, and we have a strong commercial practice, as well. ODMD has a very strong practice in privately held and family-owned businesses, as well as an extensive practice with not-for-profit organizations including nursing homes, hospitals and churches. We’re both well known across the region, and combining forces only enhances what we can do.”

Nick DeSantis, also a Bennett Kielson partner, added: “We have always strived to give our clients the highest caliber of professional service. By joining with ODMD, we add extra dimensions to the range of professional accounting and consulting services that have been our hallmark for more than 50 years.”

ODMD traces its roots to 1891 and is well known among independent accounting and consulting firms for its history of long-term client relationships. Bennett Kielson Storch DeSantis & Company LLP was founded in 1945 and is one of the largest independent accounting firms in the Hudson Valley Region. The combined Firm is ranked as one of the top 15 top firms in the New York Metropolitan area and is among the 100 largest accounting and consulting firms nationwide.

###