

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lashly & Baer, P.C. Celebrates 100th Anniversary in 2012

*Saving a bridge, desegregating city schools,
and revitalizing downtown are highlights of firm's history*

St. Louis, Missouri (January 4, 2012) – In 2012, the downtown St. Louis law firm Lashly & Baer, P.C. will mark 100 years of service to the St. Louis region. The firm, known for its involvement in civic activities and for handling a number of landmark legal matters, plans to continue its tradition of volunteerism and support of initiatives that benefit downtown St. Louis as well as the entire metropolitan area.

“For our centennial, we wanted to find a way to reflect our commitment to St. Louis, so we will be renewing and increasing our efforts in community service activities. It’s important for us to know we are making an impact in the city where we live and work,” said Kenneth C. Brostron, President and Managing Partner of Lashly & Baer. “We’re proud of our long tradition of public service and are grateful for the opportunities we have had to make a difference in St. Louis.”

Many of the firm’s attorneys have been active both professionally and personally in efforts to revitalize downtown St. Louis. In the late 1990s, John Fox Arnold, the firm’s Chairman, took on a leadership role to reorganize Downtown St. Louis, Inc. into a new partnership structure and to

create Missouri's first community improvement district. The Partnership for Downtown St. Louis now actively represents and advocates the interests of residents, business and property owners in all 360 blocks of downtown St. Louis and has helped develop a strong core for the region.

Over the years, Lashly & Baer has provided counsel to clients engaged in some of the most significant projects in St. Louis including the MetroLink light rail transit system, the St. Louis Convention Center Headquarters Hotel, and the successful effort to transfer jurisdiction of the crumbling, historic McKinley Bridge to the Illinois Department of Transportation for rehabilitation. Arnold tirelessly led each of these projects, and his leadership on the bridge project led his fellow attorneys to dub him "the man who saved the McKinley Bridge," according to Brostron.

The firm is also well respected for its work on behalf of the Board of Education for the City of St. Louis in the desegregation case that began in 1972 and brought about equal education opportunities for city students and hundreds of millions of dollars for new and renovated schools in the city.

Other noteworthy cases for the firm include a 1932 lawsuit involving the Moon Motor Car Company, a Brooklyn National League Baseball Club case in 1946, and the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority in 1954 that expanded downtown development.

"We are very proud of the firm's accomplishments over the past 100 years and look forward to the next 100," said Brostron. "It is exciting for all of us to be a part of such a great milestone."

The firm was founded in downtown St. Louis in 1912 and led by Jacob M. Lashly. Lashly was considered one of Missouri's most outstanding trial lawyers and served as

President of the American Bar Association and The Missouri Bar. His brother, Arthur, and later his son, John H. Lashly, joined the firm. The firm's other namesake, David Baer, Jr., joined in 1982.

Today, Lashly & Baer has 43 lawyers who practice in diverse areas such as health care, government, banking, transportation, education and employment. The firm has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers* as one of the "Best Law Firms in America," and its leadership team of Brostron, Arnold, and Richard D. Watters has been named on the list of "*Best Lawyers in America*" for many years. In addition, Watters was named 2011 St. Louis *Best Lawyers* Health Care Lawyer of the Year.

The firm is housed in a former bank at 714 Locust Street, built in 1917 and later converted into law offices when the firm purchased the building in 1978. The firm took great pains to retain the building's original architectural features, including walnut paneling, the continued use of the teller windows and a magnificent bank vault that is now used as the law library. The thick metal doors and imposing locking mechanisms along with armored walls make this library, and the firm, one of a kind.

"We like the idea of staying connected to St. Louis' past, and to our firm's history, but at the same time we always look forward," Brostron said. "We're planning for a future that allows us to continue to represent the needs of our region and clients in a positive way. We're committed to staying downtown and supporting the city's growth and success for many years to come."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Brostron and Mr. Arnold are available for interviews about the firm and its place in St. Louis history.

About Lashly & Baer, P.C.

Lashly & Baer, P.C., is a mid-size Missouri law firm with deep roots in St. Louis and surrounding areas including Belleville, Illinois. Opened in 1912, Lashly & Baer has lawyers experienced in corporate, education, estate planning, family, government, health care, labor and employment, litigation, medical malpractice defense, personal injury, product liability and toxic tort, professional liability, real estate and transportation. For more information, call (314) 621-2939 or visit www.lashlybaer.com.