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FEDERAL JUDGE UPHOLDS ANTITRUST CLAIMS
AGAINST IBEW LOCAL #3 AND SIX ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Ruling Is Expected to Save Hundreds of Millions of Dollars
on Telecommunications Projects in Metropolitan New York, Fairfield and Westchester

NEW YORK - January 25, 2002 - In an unequivocal decision, a federal judge has upheld antitrust claims against the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union # 3 and six electrical contractors brought by two telecommunications companies who, together with the public, have been adversely affected by the defendants' repeated efforts to extinguish competition by excluding them from the telecommunications market. The decision by the Honorable Richard M. Berman, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, was made in a case filed by U.S. Information Systems, Inc. ("USIS") and Odyssey Group, Inc. in June 2000. The complaint alleges many instances in which Local 3 and their electrical contractor co-conspirators engaged in illegal tactics, ranging from threats of work slowdowns and the concerted refusal of overtime work to direct intimidation of building owners, tenants, general contractors and communications consultants to sabotage resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. Because USIS and Odyssey are seeking a permanent injunction, the impact of today's ruling paves the way for unrestricted competition and may well lead to savings of hundreds of millions of dollars in connection with telecommunications projects extending from metropolitan New York to Westchester and Fairfield Counties.

USIS and Odyssey are engaged in telecommunications installation and employ technicians represented by the Communications Workers of American, AFL-CIO, while the defendant electrical contractors employ Local 3 labor. Judge Berman's opinion held that USIS and Odyssey, through their claims under the federal and state antitrust laws and state tort laws, have sufficiently alleged that the defendants' activities have had the intent and effect of eliminating competition in that marketplace.

The defendants challenged the plaintiffs' allegations on a number of grounds, including that the complaint does not adequately plead a proper relevant market, the necessary impact on competition or an economically plausible conspiracy. The defendants also argued that any antitrust claims would be precluded because of the labor exemptions. Judge Berman rejected the defendants' arguments and upheld the sufficiency of plaintiffs' allegations, dismissing only the narrow and technical state claims of tortious interference against Local 3 (but not against the defendant contractors), which state claims have no direct

bearing on the antitrust issues. The case will now move forward, with a mandatory scheduling conference to be held on February 8, 2002.

For additional information on this lawsuit, including the complaint or a copy of the decision and order referenced in this release, please visit <http://www.local3antitrust.com>. USIS and Odyssey are represented by King & Spalding, a national law firm with more than 700 lawyers in offices in New York, Atlanta, Houston, and Washington, D.C.