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Meritas Convenes Attorneys from 70 Countries for Summit on the Legal Impacts of Trade, Data Privacy and Climate Change for Global Businesses

Group to collaborate on leading clients through global issues, while discussing their role in community development with special guest Justice Alan Page

MIAMI May 3, 2018 – Attorneys from law firms in 240 markets worldwide are assembling in Miami May 3-5 to discuss the impact of Europe's new data privacy requirements, global trade policy and negotiations, and climate change, for companies conducting cross-border business. The attorneys are members of <u>Meritas</u>, the leading global alliance of business law firms, and the discussions are part of the Meritas 2018 Annual Meeting.

"The complexities of today's business environment increase the need for close collaboration among attorneys that represent clients doing business globally," said Drew Dillworth, director and shareholder of <u>Stearns</u>. <u>Weaver Miller</u>, a Meritas member firm and host of the annual meeting. "The issues are significant enough to demand face-to-face discussions to share knowledge and build relationships that are called upon when a client has a need in another part of the world."

The most recent countries to be introduced at the annual meeting include Norway, Slovenia, Algeria, Ethiopia and four Caribbean markets. Law firms from these countries have recently joined Meritas, after meeting the network's stringent quality requirements for membership.

Other topics on the annual meeting agenda include cybersecurity and the changing pressures on large law firms as in-house legal departments seek new efficiencies. Justice Alan Page, former member of the Minnesota Supreme Court, pro football hall of fame inductee and community leader, will present on the role of lawyers in community development. Justice Page's appearance inspired a team of Meritas young lawyers to coordinate a backpack drive to fill backpacks with school essentials and deliver them to Miami school children as a contribution to this year's host community.

"Global challenges and opportunities are getting more complex, while businesses are seeking more value -without sacrificing quality -- from their legal teams. This is driving more interest in global legal networks," said Tanna Moore, president and CEO of Meritas. "Members of Meritas come together at the annual meeting, and several other times throughout the year, to make sure we're ready to respond to the demands of the changing marketplace."

Learn more about Meritas at meritas.org, on Twitter at @MeritasLawFirms, LinkedIn or YouTube.

About Meritas

Founded in 1990, Meritas is an international alliance of commercial law firms working across jurisdictions to provide clients the best of both worlds: a local legal partner with full-service capabilities and the cost efficiency and personal attention unmatched by mega law firms. Each member law firm is required to adhere to rigorous and specific service standards on a regular basis. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Meritas has member firms in 241 global markets and 7,458 lawyers. To find a Meritas law firm or for more information, visit meritas.org or call 612-339-8680.

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