## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## <u>Preliminary Approval Of Consent Decree Settlement In Woodward</u> <u>Governor Discrimination Litigation Granted On October 5, 2006</u>

A comprehensive Consent Decree resolving the pending class action discrimination litigation against Woodward Governor Company (Bell, et. al. v. Woodward Governor Company, 03 C 50190), as well as a consolidated lawsuit filed by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on October 4, 2006, received preliminary approval from Judge Reinhard On October 5, 2006. The Consent Decree resolves claims brought by minority and female employees of Woodward in 2003 that the Company discriminated against them with respect to compensation and advancement opportunities.

Under the 53 page Consent Decree, Woodward will pay \$5,000,000.00 to eligible minority and female class members. The Company will also be required to undertake a wide range of affirmative measures designed to prevent the occurrence of discrimination, including such activities as engaging an industrial/organizational psychologist to analyzed company jobs, adjusting employee job classifications based on the analysis, revising the company's written job descriptions, performance appraisal process and compensation review process, establishing a discrimination complaint procedure and providing equal employment opportunity training for all company supervisors and employees. The Consent Decree will remain in place for at least 36 months and will be overseen by Advisor/Monitor Nancy Kreiter, who will report to the Court.

"This is a great day for our clients and the Company," said Jennifer Soule, lead counsel for the plaintiffs. "It was a long struggle but, in the end, everyone worked together to achieve a result that we believe is very fair, and will serve to assure that equal employment opportunities are provided to all Woodward employees, regardless of their race, national origin or gender." Soule emphasized the extensive equitable relief: "This Decree will redress disparities in compensation and advancement that go back many years, and will protect against them occurring in the future."

Soule, Bradtke & Lambert is a civil litigation firm located in Chicago, and specializes in employment discrimination cases and complex litigation. The firm has successfully prosecuted employment discrimination cases in Rockford against the Rockford Health System, the City of Rockford Public Works Department and Ingersoll Milling Machinery Company.