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**THOMSON & THOMSON DOUBLES COMMON LAW COVERAGE
FOR U.S. FULL TRADEMARK AVAILABILITY SEARCH**

North Quincy, MA - (December 22, 1997) Thomson & Thomson (T&T), the world leader in trademark and copyright services, recently announced that it has significantly enhanced the scope of Common Law sources included in its U.S. Full Trademark Availability Searches.

T&T has added 14 online databases to its in-house trademark search system. As a result, beginning January 1998, an additional 25 million online records derived from 5,000 journals, newspapers and magazines will be searched as part of every U.S. Full Search. For T&T clients, the enhancement will mean more comprehensive coverage with more relevant search results, which will aid in the assessment of a new trademark's availability.

"We have always led the industry with exceptionally thorough Common Law trademark coverage," affirms Vice President Robert Fantasia. "However, with this additional online database search, we're now raising the standard of Common Law trademark searching, inasmuch as we've virtually *doubled* the number of records T&T maintains and accesses."

A Common Law search is an important part of a U.S. Full Availability Search, the most requested Thomson & Thomson product. A Common Law trademark is a trademark that is not registered, but is currently being used in the marketplace and, therefore, is protected under U.S. trademark law. A conflict may occur when another party attempts to register this same or confusingly similar trademark for their own use. The T&T Common Law search locates such unregistered trademarks, a procedure that is necessary when checking a proposed trademark for availability.

T&T's Common Law search sources include proprietary references, business name databases, print and CD-ROM publications, Internet domain names and online references. What's more, Thomson & Thomson licenses the majority of its trademark information directly from the publishers, resulting in the most exclusive Common Law collection in the industry, consisting of over 45 million in-house resources.

Thomson & Thomson has led the industry in providing worldwide trademark research and protection services for over 75 years. The company maintains offices throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan.

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