

President of Slovakia Visits Miller Canfield

April 16, 2003

The President of Slovakia, Rudolf Schuster, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, Ronald Weiser, and other trade delegates visited the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. on April 11. The dignitaries met with CEOs from many of Michigan's largest corporations at a special luncheon hosted by Miller Canfield at the Detroit Athletic Club to discuss the benefits of investing in Slovakia, which include its coming membership in the European Union, low labor costs, and centralized location in Europe.

"The exclusive event allowed Miller Canfield to provide introductions and resources to business decision makers looking to expand their presence in the Slovak Republic," said Thomas W. Linn, CEO of Miller Canfield. "Also, the meeting was a great opportunity to strengthen the firm's position as Michigan's legal leader in international business."

U.S. investment into Slovakia has been steadily increasing over the last several years. The automotive industry in particular has found an industrial area spanning Northwestern Slovakia, Northeastern Czech Republic and all of Southern Poland an attractive location to set up operations. In Slovakia last year, auto exports accounted for almost 21% of total Slovak exports, making it the strongest export industry. Announcements of large foreign investments continue to appear frequently in the region, most notably with the recent decision by Toyota to locate three new factories near the Slovak border in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Miller Canfield has been representing companies investing in Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic and all of Central and Eastern Europe for well over a decade. Miller Canfield has three offices in Poland with local attorneys who handle all aspects of foreign investment, including real estate, employment law, mergers, acquisitions, and project finance. For more information on Miller Canfield's International Business practice, please contact Richard A. Walawender at (313) 496-7628.

The 300-attorney law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. was established in Detroit in 1852 and has offices in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Howell, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Monroe, and Troy, Michigan. Other offices are located in New York City, Pensacola, Florida, Washington, D.C., Windsor, Ontario, and in Gdynia, Katowice, and Warsaw, Poland. Visit www.millercanfield.com.