
PRESS RELEASES

Mar 2, 1999

Philip L. Smith Retires; Jerry A. Grundhofer And William L. Jews Appointed To Ecolab Board Of Directors

ST. PAUL, MINN., March 2, 1999: Ecolab Inc. announced Philip L. Smith, has retired from the Ecolab Board of Directors after 10 years of excellent service. The Board of Directors has simultaneously increased the size of the Board from 13 to 14 by appointing two new directors, Jerry A. Grundhofer and William L. Jews.

Mr. Grundhofer, 54, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Firststar Corporation, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Jews, 47, is President and Chief Executive Officer of CareFirst, a holding company for the Blue Cross plans of Maryland, the District of Columbia and West Virginia. CareFirst is headquartered in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Mr. Grundhofer was named to his present position in November 1998. He joined Star Banc Corporation in 1993 and was Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Star Banc prior to Star Banc's November 1998 merger with Firststar. Prior to joining Star Banc he held executive positions at a number of banks, including BankAmerica Corporation, Security Pacific National Bank and Wells Fargo Bank. Mr. Grundhofer is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles California.

Mr. Jews was named to his present position in January 1998 upon completion of the merger of the Blue Cross plans under CareFirst. He had served for the previous five years as President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland. Prior to that time Mr. Jews had an extensive career in the health care service industry. Mr. Jews earned a bachelor's degree in social and behavioral sciences from The Johns Hopkins University and a master's degree in urban planning and policy analysis with an emphasis on health administration from Morgan State University's Graduate School of Urban Studies.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and pest elimination products and services for the hospitality, health care and light industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1998, Ecolab reported sales of \$1.9 billion; including European joint venture sales of \$0.9 billion, Ecolab's global sales coverage was \$2.8 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at <http://www.ecolab.com>; and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

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