Sonoco Board Elects John Linville Director

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Oct 18, 2004 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- John E. Linville, attorney with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, New York City, New York, has been elected to the Sonoco (NYSE: SON) Board of Directors, it was announced today by Charles W. Coker, chairman.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020304/SONOCOLOGO)

"We are delighted that Jack Linville has agreed to join our board of directors. Jack brings to our board extensive experience from a distinguished legal career, with particular emphasis in healthcare, an issue of continuing importance to Sonoco and the nation's business community in general," said Coker.

Mr. Linville was a senior equity partner in the 50-lawyer New York City firm of Kalkines, Arky, Zall & Bernstein, LLP (KAZB) prior to the firm's merger in 2003 with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP. He joined KAZB in 1990 and specialized in representing healthcare industry clients.

Linville was with the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation from 1985 to 1990, serving as vice president of Legal Affairs and General Counsel for this $3 billion public benefit corporation prior to being named acting president during 1990. He began his legal career with the New York City law firm of Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Irvine in 1971 and served as a partner of that firm from 1980 to 1985.

A 1968 graduate of Princeton University with an A.B. degree in biochemistry, Linville received a J.D. degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1971 where he served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Law and Contemporary Problems.

Linville serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University's School of Law, is an active member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York where he currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Bioethical Issues. He also appears as a guest commentator for medical/legal issues on Court TV. Linville is an avid yachtsman, having previously won World and North American championships in one design yacht racing.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a $2.8 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 36 countries serving customers in some 85 nations. Additional information about the Company is available on its Web site at http://www.sonoco.com .

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