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Leading Litigation Funder Burford Group LLC Hires Corporate Counsel Melissa Sobel

Melissa Sobel is a former Associate General Counsel at Time Inc. and a former corporate lawyer at Debevoise & Plimpton; Arrives to handle matters related to Burford's robust portfolio of investments

NEW YORK (July 30, 2012) – Leading litigation funding firm **Burford Group LLC** announced that **Melissa Sobel**, an experienced corporate/commercial lawyer who has worked both as in-house counsel and in private practice, has joined the company as Corporate Counsel, resident in New York.

Ms. Sobel was most recently Associate General Counsel at Time Inc., where over the last eight-and-a-half years she advised multiple divisions of the media giant. She worked on licensing and digital content distributions, television and book deals, strategic alliances and joint ventures. She served as primary counsel on several of the publishing company's most popular brands, including *InStyle* and *Entertainment Weekly*. She also advised on acquisitions and divestitures and handled intellectual property, First Amendment and other media law issues.

Previously, Ms. Sobel was a senior corporate attorney at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York, regularly working on U.S. and international mergers and acquisitions, as well as securities offerings, financing transactions and restructurings, corporate spinoffs, private investments and other matters.

Ms. Sobel will primarily focus on Burford's investment portfolio, which consists of commercial disputes at various stages of adjudication that the company has targeted for potential financial recovery. Launched in 2009, Burford is now the largest player in the growing field for litigation funding. The firm has committed nearly \$300 million across a diverse spectrum of disputes – from intellectual property cases to lawsuits involving trade secrets, contracts, real estate, securities law and other areas. Burford's investors include prominent private equity and institutional investors. The firm is listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Burford CEO **Christopher Bogart** said that the company's portfolio had reached a level of maturity that will benefit from having a dedicated in-house corporate counsel. The company has committed capital to over 3 dozen matters, at an average investment of approximately \$7 million (ranging from \$3-\$15 million).

"Our portfolio is extremely robust and dynamic and we continue to find new ways of structuring our investments," Mr. Bogart said. "Melissa arrives at just the right time and she brings the ideal skills as a transactional lawyer and in-house counsel. In addition to helping close deals, she'll oversee the myriad legal issues that inevitably arise before and after we invest." Having served as EVP

and General Counsel at Time Warner Inc., and previously as a litigator at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, he shares a similar background of in-house and law firm experience.

Ms. Sobel received her J.D. *cum laude* from New York University School of Law (1996), where she was a member and Secretary of the Moot Court Board. She graduated from Wesleyan University with a B.A. in English (1991).

She is the incoming chair of the Entertainment Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association. She has also been a member of the Bar Association's Copyright Committee and served as Secretary of its Women In the Profession Committee.

For further information, visit www.burfordfinance.com.