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**MEMORANDUM**

June 9, 2010

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BEFORE FEDERAL COURTS AND AGENCIES

**BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**

FROM: Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Bode Matz PC

RE: IOM/NRC Report on FDA's Roll in Enhancing Food Safety

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The Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Research Council (NRC) yesterday released a consensus report, entitled *Enhancing Food Safety: The Role of the Food and Drug Administration*. The report was requested by Congress and sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The IOM committee responsible for the report included representatives from academia, state government, and industry.

The IOM committee generally determined that FDA lacks a comprehensive vision for food safety, and suggested that the agency take a risk-based approach in assessing the greatest potential for contamination along the production, distribution, and handling chains so as better to safeguard consumers effectively from foodborne illnesses. The IOM committee further suggested that FDA develop and disseminate standards so that states and the federal government follow the same rigorous methods for inspections, surveillance, and disease outbreak investigations, and that the Congress take legislative action to provide FDA with all authority it needs to fulfill its food safety mission.

The report includes discussion and recommendations with respect to:

- Adopting a risk-based approach to food safety;
- Implementing such an approach;
- Integrating food safety programs;
- Enhancing the efficiency of inspections;
- Educating the public;
- Modernizing legislation; and
- Reorganizing the food safety system

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The full report is available for online reading and/or purchase at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/Enhancing-Food-Safety-The-Role-of-the-Food-and-Drug-Administration.aspx>. Additional materials available include an IOM/NRC press release at <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=12892>; a report brief at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/Enhancing-Food-Safety-The-Role-of-the-Food-and-Drug-Administration/Report-Brief-Enhancing-Food-Safety-The-Role-of-the-Food-and-Drug-Administration.aspx>; and information about meetings related to the IOM/NRC's activity at <http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Nutrition/FDARoleReview/2010-JUN-08.aspx>.

If you have any questions about the IOM/NRC report or related matters concerning FDA's role in regulating food safety, please contact Michael O'Flaherty at 202-518-6320 or [moflaherty@ofwlaw.com](mailto:moflaherty@ofwlaw.com).

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