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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THORP REED & ARMSTRONG PARTNER HONORED FOR SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO COLLEGE ATHLETIC TRAINERS' SOCIETY**

**Pittsburgh, PA – MAY 23, 2005** – C. James Zeszutek, Partner at Pittsburgh-based law firm Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, was awarded the first annual Jack Weakley Service Award by the College Athletic Trainers' Society (CATS) for his dedication, legal advice and counsel and services to the group since its inception in 1992.

Jack Weakley, head of the Sports Medicine Group at Johnson & Johnson and a dedicated advocate and friend of CATS, is the namesake of the award. Mr. Zeszutek was presented the award at the CATS Spring Symposium for Athletic Trainers and Team Physicians at the New Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada at which he was also a guest speaker on potential medical malpractice liability of sports health care providers.

Since its start, CATS retained Thorp Reed & Armstrong to serve as legal counsel in its mission not only to improve the care of student-athletes, but also to address the needs and concerns of collegiate athletic trainers. Mr. Zeszutek and Thorp Reed has offered assistance to take on the group's first charge: the incorporation of the society. From there, Mr. Zeszutek has been dedicated to advising the society on matters such as fair employment laws, the rights of athletic trainers, liability of athletic trainers as health care providers and health insurance issues.

"CATS is a world-class organization that is doing great things for athletic trainers and intercollegiate sports alike," said Mr. Zeszutek. "I'm honored to be recognized with the Jack Weakley Award as such a significant part of this group's tremendous success and growth."

Although Mr. Zeszutek typically spends his time on complex litigation matters at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, his love of competition in sports and the personalities of those involved with sports has led him to take on various sports-related matters in addition to his commitment to CATS.

Mr. Zeszutek's sports clients have made national headlines and include representation of college coaches in connection with National Collegiate Athletic Association ("NCAA") matters involving Syracuse University, Purdue University and The Ohio State University, among others. Mr. Zeszutek has also represented college coaches in employment contract negotiations.

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"As much as I enjoy my complex litigation practice, I find sports law exciting and challenging in a completely different way," Mr. Zeszutek said. "Working directly with individuals in matters of great importance to them is rewarding in itself. Although many of the competencies in all aspects of litigation are utilized, the culture and flavor of the world of sports and the personalities involved make this part of my practice most interesting.."

*The College Athletic Trainers' Society was founded to provide high-quality care to student-athletes; to foster a close working relationship with organizations whose interests are to promote intercollegiate athletics; and to address the needs and concerns of full-time head and assistant athletic trainers at colleges and universities.*

*Since 1895, Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP has been a premier Pittsburgh-based law firm, which has grown to include additional offices in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Princeton, New Jersey, and Wheeling, West Virginia. Earning the respect, trust and appreciation of clients, peers, and those who live in our communities, Thorp Reed & Armstrong attorneys have gained a reputation as "lawyer's lawyers" — lawyers who exemplify the profession's best qualities. The firm is engaged in a variety of practice areas including litigation, labor and employment relations, corporate and business law, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, employee benefits, environmental law, construction law, health care law, intellectual property, and tax and estate issues. For more information on Thorp Reed & Armstrong, call 412-394-2428 or visit [www.thorpreed.com](http://www.thorpreed.com).*

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