

\$2 MILLION IS SECURED FOR PHILADELPHIA'S ESSINGTON AVENUE BROWNFIELDS PROJECT, ANNOUNCED BY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FIRM, MANKO, GOLD, KATCHER & FOX, LLP

Philadelphia, PA (May 9, 2008) – Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP (MGKF) announced today that its client, Essington Avenue Partners, L.P., a development affiliate of O'Neill Properties, a leading real estate and brownfields development firm based in King of Prussia, Pa., has been awarded \$2 million in funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) to facilitate the planned Essington Avenue Brownfields project, which will result in the transformation of a blighted site in the City of Philadelphia into the new location for the Philadelphia Regional Produce Market.

"O'Neill Properties has already undertaken extensive remediation at the site, and have formed a strong public-private partnership with local and state officials to ensure the success of the project. The awarded federal funds will help to ensure the viability of the overall brownfields redevelopment," said Jonathan Spergel, a partner with MGKF who was the primary drafter of the successful grant application.

The funding for the Essington Avenue brownfields project is part of \$9.5 million in federal grants that will be awarded for economic development initiatives in Pennsylvania, which was recently announced by U.S. Senators Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.). The BEDI grants, which are administered by HUD, are awarded through a competitive grant program designed to stimulate and promote economic development by assisting cities with the redevelopment of abandoned, idled and underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion and redevelopment is burdened by environmental contamination.

Mr. Spergel worked with officials from the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) and key personnel from O'Neill Properties to prepare the successful grant application. In the past eight years, Mr. Spergel and MGKF have assisted clients in securing over \$15 million of HUD BEDI grant funds for brownfields redevelopment projects in Pennsylvania.

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MGKF concentrates its practice in environmental, energy, and land use law and litigation. It represents clients ranging from Fortune 100 corporations to small, privately held enterprises, both in the Mid-Atlantic Region and on a national basis. MGKF's offices are located at 401 City Avenue, Suite 500, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania and 535 Route 38, Suite 145A, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. For additional information, visit <u>www.mgkflaw.com</u> or call 484-430-5700 or 856-317-1299.