

# Kennedy Van der Laan

Press Release

## Kennedy Van der Laan Strengthens Employment Law Group

Employment law specialist Johan Pel joins Kennedy Van der Laan as partner

**AMSTERDAM, 1 May 2009 – Kennedy Van der Laan has strengthened its employment law group with the arrival of three new colleagues. Johan Pel (46), specialist in the field of collective and individual employment law and mediation has joined Kennedy Van der Laan as partner. Diane Donath (35) and Alexandra van Zanten-Baris (30) will also join Kennedy Van der Laan, respectively as attorney and professional support lawyer.**

“Kennedy Van der Laan has always had an extensive and high-quality practice in the field of employment and co-governance law. These new colleagues will make put us in an even better equipped position to assist our clients in employment law matters”, says Joost Linnemann, managing partner of Kennedy Van der Laan. Pel joins Kennedy Van der Laan on 1 May 2009, Donath and Van Zanten-Baris will follow in mid-May.

Pel has a long track record as an employment law specialist. He worked at Boekel De Nerée since 1988, where he became partner in 1997 and was head of the employment law group for many years. He was also member of the Executive Board of Boekel De Nerée.

Pel acts on behalf of employers and employees. He is also a prominent mediator, both in employment law matters and in other disputes. In the leading Chambers Europe guide Pel is described as an “individual dismissal cases expert” and an “astute mediator”. Pel is also a substitute judge of the District Court of Haarlem, editor of *Tijdschrift voor de Arbeidsrechtpraktijk* (TAP) and author of various publications in the field of employment law and mediation, including the book *Arbeidsrecht en mediation* (Employment Law and Mediation). He is a lecturer and trainer with various educational institutions.

Pel is pleased: “The switch to Kennedy Van der Laan enables me to serve my clients in a high-quality manner and to concentrate on what I like most: the substantive aspects of the law and mediation profession”, says Pel.

Diane Donath also switches to Kennedy Van der Laan. She joined Boekel De Nerée in 2007 to work with Pel. Before that, she worked as in-house counsel with Heineken for eight years. Alexandra van Zanten-Baris obtained her doctorate two months ago at the University of Amsterdam on the topical issue 'The Grounds for Severance Payment' (*De grondslagen van de ontslagvergoeding*). She is the editor-in-chief of the *ArbeidsRecht* magazine.

With the arrival of these three new colleagues, the employment law group of Kennedy Van der Laan has now consists of 19 attorneys, including partners Chris Nekeman and Johan Pel and associate partners Inge de Laat and Eva Knipschild. The employment law group acts for large and small national and international businesses, works councils, members of management boards and employees.

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#### **About Kennedy Van der Laan**

*Kennedy Van der Laan, founded in 1992, is one of the top-20 law firms in the Netherlands. The firm defends the legal interests of multinationals, businesses operating nationally, starting companies and government and semi-government bodies. The mission of Kennedy Van der Laan is to provide the best possible legal services and expertise to our clients while living our commitment to personal and social responsibility.*

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