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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE
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Nelligan O'Brien Payne files suit against U.S. Embassy

OTTAWA, September 8, 2003 – The law firm of Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP has commenced legal proceedings in the Ontario Superior Court against the United States Government. Nelligan O'Brien Payne is working on behalf of a group of twenty-four Canadians (both retired from and presently employed) at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa and in U.S. consulates in Halifax, Quebec City, Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, and Vancouver. The group consists of long-serving employees with more than 25 years of service.

The employees are seeking damages of \$1 million. The claim concerns the failure of the U.S. Government to provide the employees with pension coverage for their total years of service.

For many years, the affected employees sought to have the inequities in pension coverage dealt with by the Embassy and, in 2000, it appeared that U.S. authorities were prepared to correct the problem. However, the following year, the Canadian employees were told that the situation would not be corrected and the employees concluded that they had no alternative but to commence legal action.

The U.S. Government has yet to file a defence to the claim.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Glen Ashworth
Marketing Communications Coordinator
Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP
Phone: (613) 231-8330
Fax: (613) 364-4160
glen.ashworth@nelligan.ca

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[OTTAWA] 66 Slater, Suite 1900, Ottawa, ON K1P 5H1, Tel: (613) 230 8080, Fax: (613) 238 2098, TDD/ATS: (613) 563 4960
[KINGSTON] The Woolen Mill, 4 Cataraqui, Suite 202, Kingston, ON K7K 1Z7, Tel: (613) 531 7905, Fax: (613) 531 0857
[EDMONTON] 1250-10060 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 3R8, Tel: (780) 420-0247, Toll Free: (866) 667 5226, Fax: (780) 497-7988