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For Immediate Release

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**FRANCHISEE REPRESENTED BY THE GOLDSTEIN LAW GROUP
PREVAILS ON SUMMARY JUDGMENT ON ITS
INTERNET ENCROACHMENT CLAIMS AGAINST H&R BLOCK**

Jeffrey M. Goldstein, Managing Partner of The Goldstein Law Group, PC., a Washington, DC-based litigation boutique, today has issued the following Press Release:

On Monday, October 21, 2002, a three-judge Arbitration Panel rejected H&R Block's ("Block") request to dismiss an H&R Block franchisee's ("Franklin") claims that Block "encroached" on the franchisee's exclusive franchise territory (which consists of several towns in southern California) by operating an Internet tax preparation website. This decision is an important victory for franchisees across the country who have been injured through unfair and predatory Internet marketing and sales practices by their franchisors.

In essence, Franklin (the H&R Block franchisee who prevailed in this summary judgment dispute) claimed that Block has taken his customers by using the Internet to wrongfully compete for and siphon away Franklin's customers, who, absent the unfair Internet efforts of Block, would otherwise have purchased tax preparation services from Franklin. Block's "encroaching" Internet activities, Franklin argued, violate both the explicit and implied terms of Franklin's franchise agreement with Block.

Franklin was represented by attorneys Jeffrey M. Goldstein of The Goldstein Law Group, P.C., a Washington, DC-based litigation boutique specializing in the representation of franchisees across the country in disputes with their franchisors. Prior to this decision, only one other tribunal in the country had ruled in favor of a franchisee claiming Internet encroachment by its franchisor.

After reading the Opinion of the Arbitration Panel in this matter, Jeffrey M. Goldstein, the Managing Partner of The Goldstein Law Group, made the following comments: "We are very pleased with the decision issued by the Arbitration Panel. This decision shows that Arbitrators and Courts will not systematically turn a "deaf ear" to franchisees' claims that their franchisors have misused "new technology", including the Internet, to unfairly divert customers away from franchisees. This decision is a significant victory for Franklin as well as for franchisees of all franchise systems across the country."

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