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News

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SARA LEE CORPORATION ELECTS VIRGIS COLBERT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brett Hart Elected a Corporate Officer

CHICAGO (Jan. 26, 2006) – Sara Lee Corporation (NYSE: SLE) announced today that its board of directors has elected Virgis W. Colbert a director of the corporation and Brett J. Hart an officer of the corporation, effective immediately. Colbert’s appointment brings the number of Sara Lee Corporation directors to 12.

Colbert, 65, recently retired from Miller Brewing Company as executive vice president of worldwide operations, a position he assumed in 1997. He began his career at Miller Brewing in 1979 and held various positions of increasing responsibility that include senior vice president of worldwide operations, senior vice president of operations and vice president of plant operations. Colbert currently serves as a member of the board of directors of The Stanley Works, The Manitowoc Company, Inc. and Delphi Corporation.

“As Sara Lee transforms itself into a consumer products company with a renewed focus on its customers and consumers, we are pleased to have Virgis join us as we create a more disciplined organization that drives consistent, long-term growth,” said Brenda C. Barnes, chairman and chief executive officer of Sara Lee Corporation. “At Miller Brewing, Virgis gained extensive global operations experience and demonstrated outstanding leadership skills that will serve Sara Lee and our shareholders well.”

Colbert earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial management from Central Michigan University.

Hart, 36, currently serves as senior vice president, deputy general counsel and global business practices officer of Sara Lee Corporation. He reports to Roderick A. Palmore, executive vice president, general counsel and secretary of Sara Lee Corporation. Hart joined Sara Lee in 2003 as assistant general counsel and was promoted to his current position in 2005. Prior to Sara Lee, he was a partner with Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal in Chicago. Before that, he served as special assistant to the general counsel at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C.

Hart received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and English from the University of Michigan and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

Sara Lee Corporation (www.saralee.com) is a Chicago-based global manufacturer and marketer of high-quality, brand-name products for consumers throughout the world. In February 2005, the company began executing a bold and ambitious multi-year plan to transform Sara Lee into a company focused on its food, beverage, and household and body care businesses around the world. As part of its transformation plan, Sara Lee will drive growth in its key categories via such strong brands as *Ball Park*, *Douwe Egberts*, *Hillshire Farm*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Kiwi*, *Sanex*, *Senseo* and its namesake, *Sara Lee*.

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