



LAWSON Products

Wilma J. Smelcer Elected as a Director of Lawson Products, Inc.

January 5, 2004

DES PLAINES, Ill., Jan. 5 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Lawson Products, Inc. (Nasdaq: LAWS) announced today the election of Wilma J. Smelcer to its board of directors. Ms. Smelcer is the former Chairman of Bank of America, Illinois (formerly Continental Bank). Ms. Smelcer's banking career spanned more than 28 years during which she held a number of senior executive positions.

Ms. Smelcer is a trustee of Goldman Sachs Trust/Goldman Sachs Variable Insurance Trust and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Chicago Stock Exchange. She is past Chair of the Chicago Network, has served as a member of the Executive Committee and Vice Chairman of the Economic Club of Chicago, and also as a member of the Executive Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago.

Ms. Smelcer was elected to fill a vacancy created at year-end by the resignation of Robert Melzer.

Lawson Products is an international seller and distributor of systems, services and products to the industrial, commercial and institutional maintenance, repair and replacement marketplace. The Company also manufactures, sells and distributes production and specialized component parts to the original equipment marketplace, including the automotive, appliance, aerospace, construction and transportation industries.

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