



## Largest Severance Payments Given to Short-Tenured CEOs

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Portland, Maine; April 29, 2010** – A [new report](#) from The Corporate Library, an independent corporate governance research firm, found that the largest severance packages from fiscal 2008 and 2009 were paid to CEOs whose tenure ranged from a little more than one year to just six years. The report examined severance paid to CEOs of 125 public companies that filed proxy statements between January 30, 2009, and January 29, 2010.

“The primary justification for multiple millions of dollars of severance pay is to attract and retain top talent,” said Research Associate Greg Ruel, author of the report. “But if an executive is being terminated or has tendered his resignation very early on in his tenure, how successful was the board in attracting the best talent for the company?”

The report also examines in detail several of the top ten highest severance packages in each of 2008 and 2009. Companies featured in the report include General Maritime Corporation, ProLogis, MoneyGram International, infoGROUP Inc., American International Group, Jones Apparel Group, E\*TRADE Financial, Sprint Nextel Corporation and Qwest Communications.

The report, titled “Proxy Season Foresights #9: Spotlight on Severance Payments,” is [available for \\$15](#) from The Corporate Library’s online store.

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### **About The Corporate Library**

Since 1999, The Corporate Library has been the leading independent research firm providing corporate governance research, advisory and risk analysis solutions. The Corporate Library rates companies in the Russell 3000, S&P 1500 and TSX60 on a proprietary set of governance risk factors, allowing businesses to evaluate governance as an element of investment and other risk. Informed by this philosophy and armed with its extensive Board Analyst® database and other risk assessment tools, The Corporate Library also offers portfolio risk assessment and environmental, social and governance (ESG) research services. Additionally, The Corporate Library’s team of industry-leading corporate governance analysts provide shareholder proposal and engagement advisory services to institutional investors. An April 2010 study of investment applications for The Corporate Library’s governance risk ratings showed outperformance of 275 annualized basis points in 2003-2010 for a hypothetical portfolio constructed using governance screens. More information on The Corporate Library and its suite of corporate governance data and analysis products can be found at [www.thecorporatelibrary.com](http://www.thecorporatelibrary.com).

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