

LOS ANGELES--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 25, 2002--Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. regrets to announce the passing of its founder, Leonard I. Green, on October 25, 2002.

Mr. Green was a pioneer in the development of the management buyout. He and two partners established Gibbons, Green, van Amerongen in 1969 -- one of the first New York-based merchant banking firms whose sole activity was management-led, leveraged buyouts. He founded Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. in Los Angeles in 1989.

Mr. Green earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Cornell in 1955 and an M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Graduate School in 1956. In 1965, he received a law degree from Loyola University Law School. He served on numerous Boards of Directors and was the Chairman of the Los Angeles Opera.

"We are deeply saddened by Leonard's unexpected passing. He was a brilliant businessman and had both the courage and vision to found our firm 13 years ago. He will be greatly missed as a partner and a friend," said Jonathan Sokoloff, a partner at Leonard Green & Partners, L.P.

Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. is a Los Angeles-based private equity firm specializing in organizing, structuring and sponsoring management buy-outs of established companies.