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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Evan Ratner of Short Hills Joins ECLC of New Jersey's Board of Trustees

CHATHAM – The ECLC of New Jersey Board of Trustees has welcomed a new member, Evan Ratner of Short Hills.

Ratner is a partner/portfolio manager at Chatham Asset Management, a hedge fund firm that specializes in investing leveraged credit assets for businesses and high net-worth individuals. He will clearly add to the ECLC Board's growing expertise in the financial arena.

Ratner spent the bulk of his career at DLJ/Credit Suisse, where he was most recently a managing director and head of Distressed Research. He earned an MBA in finance from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business in 1991, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Columbia College in 1985. Prior to his career in finance, Ratner was a professional tennis player, achieving a world ranking of No. 309 in singles and No. 209 as a doubles player.

Ratner has been involved with supporting a number of causes and nonprofits over the years and said he was drawn to ECLC because of its mission and strong leadership. "I became involved with ECLC due to my belief in the vision and leadership of Executive Director Bruce Litinger," said Ratner, "and the long-term mission of this 40-

plus-year-old organization to provide much-needed and lifelong services to both children and adults with special needs."

About ECLC

Established in 1970, ECLC of New Jersey offers lifelong services -- education, enrichment and employment -- to children and adults with special needs, including those diagnosed with autism, Down syndrome and severe learning and/or language disabilities. As students prepare to graduate, transition specialists from ECLC's affiliate Community Personnel Services (CPS), take over, guiding them into the next chapter of their lives. CPS specialists help students find meaningful jobs in their communities and provide ongoing support and advocacy in the workplace.

Graduates who are not ready for work are guaranteed a spot in the P.R.I.D.E. program, where they enhance their independent living skills, socialize with peers and volunteer. A defining hallmark of P.R.I.D.E. is that clients choose their activities and are rarely in the center all day. Learn more about ECLC at www.eclcofnj.org.

ECLC is a member of the Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey, a coalition of more than 30 state-approved private special education schools dedicated to helping parents and educators better understand and access appropriate program options. Learn more about the Alliance at <http://specialeducationalalliancenj.org>.