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Contact: **Gail Pomerantz
Ashton-Tate
(213) 538-7345**

**Susan Ritchie
Miller Communications
(213) 822-4669**

20101 Hamilton Avenue
Torrance, California 90502-1319
Telephone: 213-329-8000
Telex: 669984 ASHT TATE USA

**ASHTON-TATE ELECTS ESBER CHAIRMAN,
NAMES THREE EXECUTIVES TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

TORRANCE, Calif., August 7, 1986 -- Ashton-Tate's board of directors today announced the election of Edward M. Esber Jr. as chairman. Esber continues as president and chief executive officer of the company.

The company's shareholders also elected three new members to the board of directors: James Castle, 49, F. William Graham, 48, and Henry Alan Sweetbaum, 48. The appointments, made at the company's annual meeting, bring the total membership of the board to eight.

"The appointment of these three directors will provide our board with additional expertise in overall management, strategic and financial planning, and corporate development," said Esber. "All three new appointees have demonstrated creativity, sound leadership, and senior management abilities.

"The new board members, together with the current members, are uniquely qualified to lead Ashton-Tate from its current position of leadership in microcomputer software into its next phase of development," he added.

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Esber, 34, has been president of Ashton-Tate since August 1984 and added the duties of chief executive officer three months later. During Ashton-Tate's first full fiscal year under his leadership, the company's revenues and income increased by 48 percent and 122 percent, respectively. The company also successfully introduced Framework II and dBASE III PLUS, and acquired MultiMate International Corporation and Forefront Corporation. On August 5, 1986, Ashton-Tate signed a letter of intent to acquire Decision Resources, Inc., a leading business graphics software company.

Esber originally joined the company as executive vice president, marketing and sales, after a 10-year career in the computer industry with IBM, Texas Instruments, and VisiCorp. He holds an MSEE from Syracuse University, a B.Sc. degree in computer engineering from Case Institute of Technology, and an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School.

New Board Members

James Castle, of Darien, Conn., is chairman and president of the systems and technology unit of Thyssen-Bornemisza Group, an Amsterdam-based high technology company. Prior to joining that company in 1984, Castle held senior management positions with Memorex, Honeywell and General Electric.

From 1982 to 1984, Castle was executive vice president of Memorex, where he had profit and loss responsibility for five of the company's operations.

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Castle was vice president of operations for Honeywell from 1980 to 1982 and chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Honeywell-Bull Network Information Services, from 1975 to 1978, a joint venture between Honeywell and Bull.

Castle graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1958 with a B.Sc. degree. He earned a doctorate and an M.Sc. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

F. William Graham, of Pacific Palisades, Calif., is president and chief executive officer of Intercraft Industries, a manufacturer and marketer of picture frames with \$140 million in annual sales.

During his 17-year tenure with Dart & Kraft, Inc., Graham held a number of positions, including group vice president and president of the Home and Commercial Products Group (1980-1982); vice president and president of the Consumer Products Group (1977-1980); and group vice president of the Fashion Group (1973-1977). He left the company in 1982 to become senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Cambridge Plan International, a company that markets diet and nutritional products.

In 1983, Graham founded Graham Venture Resource & Management Co., where he served as president and chief executive officer until 1985.

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Graham graduated cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor of science degree in 1959. He holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School (1964).

Henry Alan Sweetbaum, a London resident, is chairman and chief executive officer of Wickes International Corporation, a position he has held since 1982.

In 1971, Sweetbaum founded Huntington Securities Limited in the United Kingdom. The company specializes in corporate mergers, acquisitions and restructuring.

Sweetbaum serves on the board for the Center for International Management Studies of the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, where he received a B.Sc. degree in economics in 1959.

In addition to Esber, Castle, Graham, and Sweetbaum, Ashton-Tate board members are James H. Furneaux, Sanford Kaplan, Carmelo Santoro and Jill Weissman Tate.

Ashton-Tate reported revenues of \$41.2 million and net income of \$5.1 million for the first quarter of fiscal 1987, ended April 30, 1986, increases of 72 percent and 119 percent, respectively, from the same period of the previous year. For the fiscal year ended January 31, 1986, the company reported record revenues of \$121.6 million and record net income of \$16.6 million.

The company markets best-selling products in three major categories: database management software, with the industry-standard dBASE family of products; word processing, with the MultiMate product

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line; and integrated software with Framework II. Upon completion of the acquisition of Decision Resources, Inc., the company will market best-selling business-graphics products from Decision Resources' MASTER GRAPHICS Series.

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