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LOCKE LIDDELL & SAPP HOUSTON ATTORNEY ELECTED TO PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL LEGAL BOARD

May 25, 2004 – Locke Liddell & Sapp partner Hal Watson -- who focuses his practice in the areas of admiralty, appellate, insurance and litigation -- has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Maritime Law Association of the United States.

Watson, who is based in the Firm's Houston office, has an undergraduate degree and law degree from Louisiana State University, and an LL.M. degree from Yale University. The Maritime Law Association was formed in 1899 to advance reform and promote uniformity in the maritime law of the United States and internationally, and to provide a forum for discussion of issues of maritime law. Most statutory reform of U.S. maritime law in the last century has resulted from initiatives of the MLA, and the Association is invariably consulted by Congress when considering legislation affecting maritime affairs. Watson is past Chairman of the Maritime Legislation Committee, has been serving as co-chair of an ad hoc committee formed at the request of the Bush administration to advise regarding the recodification of Title 46 of the U.S. Code and has served as an adviser to the State Department regarding a proposed wreck removal convention.

Established in 1891, Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP is recognized as one of the leading law firms in Texas and throughout the nation. A full service law firm with offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston and New Orleans, Locke Liddell & Sapp has about 400 lawyers who represent a broad range of businesses and individual clients having extensive domestic and foreign business interests.