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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell Houston Partner Named Secretary Of National Maritime Law Association

(HOUSTON) May 8, 2008 – Hal Watson, a Partner in the Houston office of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, has been elected Secretary of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. The MLA is an organization composed of over 3,000 lawyers, judges, academics and non-lawyers formed in 1899 to facilitate justice in the administration of the maritime law, to promote uniformity in its enactment and interpretation, and to provide a forum for the discussion and consideration of maritime legal issues. The MLA works closely with the United States government and the maritime law associations of other nations in pursuing these ends, and has been instrumental in achieving numerous significant reforms of the maritime law on both domestic and international levels.

Watson has handled trials and appeals before state and federal courts in Texas, Louisiana, and various other states involving marine casualties, marine and energy insurance, personal injury, carriage of goods and charter parties, and other contract, tort and general commercial disputes. He concentrates on counseling and defending marine, energy, casualty and property insurers in coverage matters and other insurance-related issues. He is also board certified in civil appellate law. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University and Louisiana State University Law School, and has his Masters in Law from Yale University.

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP is a full-service, national law firm of more than 700 attorneys with offices in Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. With a vast geographic scope, and a national reputation in complex litigation, regulatory and transactional work, Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell is focused on achieving client success as a team. Among LLB&L's many strong practice areas are admiralty and maritime, appellate, capital markets, corporate, class action litigation, employee benefits, energy, environmental, financial services, health care, insurance and reinsurance industries, intellectual property, labor and employment, public law, real estate, REIT, tax and technology.

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