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## Locke Lord Recognized as 2012 Gold Standard Certified Firm by Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF)



**June 18, 2012** – Locke Lord has been recognized as one of only 50 law firms nationwide to earn the 2012 Gold Standard Certification by the Women in Law Empowerment Forum or WILEF, an organization that helps women in law gain leadership roles within the AmLaw 100 and throughout the legal industry. Gold Standard Firms must have at least 100 practicing attorneys and must meet strict criteria that demonstrate they have integrated women into the highest leadership positions in the firm.

As one of only a handful of AmLaw 100 firms with a woman as Chair, Locke Lord has established a solid track record of promoting deserving women to leadership roles in the 650-attorney international Firm. “This significant recognition shows our commitment to women’s initiatives at Locke Lord and our dedication to recruiting, hiring, promoting and retaining excellent women attorneys,” said Firm Chair Jerry Clements. “Our strong Women’s Initiative Committee has at its core a mission to support and encourage the success of women at Locke Lord, and we have many impressive examples.”

Fifty percent of Locke Lord’s 2012 partnership class are new women partners, and women hold high profile leadership positions on the Firm’s Executive Committee and Board of Directors. They also chair Firm committees and practice groups and sections. In addition to its own Women’s Initiative, Locke Lord is a member of the Chicago Coalition of Women’s Initiatives in Law Firms and the Houston Bar Association Gender Fairness Initiative. Clements serves on the Board of Directors of the National Women’s Council, a non-profit organization that seeks to provide a collective voice for women of all backgrounds, classes and ages.

The Firm’s women attorneys have received numerous honors, including Jennifer Kenedy, Managing Partner of the Firm’s Chicago office, who received the 2012 Esther Rothstein Award from the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois in recognition of her leadership and her efforts to empower women in the legal field and beyond. Kenedy was selected as one of the “Most Powerful and Influential Women of Illinois” by the National Diversity Council last year. In 2010, Clements was named one of the “Most Powerful and Influential Women” in Texas by the Texas Diversity and Leadership Conference.



WILEF prides itself on measuring its Gold Standard Firms objectively through a series of six measurements that show exact numbers of women in leadership roles. To be certified, firms must meet three of the following criteria:

- 20 percent of equity partners are women
- 10 percent of firm chairs and managing partners are women
- 20 percent of the firm's primary governance committee are women
- 20 percent of the firm's compensation committee or its equivalent are women
- 25 percent of the firm's practice group leaders and/or department heads are women
- 10 percent of the top half of the most highly compensated equity partners in the firm are women

Locke Lord LLP consistently ranks among *American Lawyer's* top 100 U.S. law firms. The Firm's full range of practice and industry areas serve national and international clients from offices in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Hong Kong, Houston, London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Sacramento, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. It has an excellent reputation in complex litigation, regulatory and transactional work, with its 650-plus lawyers building collaborative relationships and crafting creative solutions – all designed and executed to meet clients' long-term strategic goals.

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