



TEXAS LOBBY POWER RANKINGS

January 31, 2006

Law Firm Lobby Practices

By Mike Hailey
Capitol Inside Editor

Locke Liddell & Sapp is the most ambitious law firm in Texas in terms of the reputation it wants to foster and the clout it aspires to wield with its lobby practice at the state, federal and local levels. The Houston-based law firm opened an office in Washington D.C. last year and staffed it with three veteran lobbyists who'd been top guns at other firms in the nation's capital. The firm's client list in Texas is a who's who of Houston power players who have a wide range of interests that are affected significantly by the policies of the state. With the expansion to Washington, an emphasis on teamwork and the ability to offer backup support in communications, ethics and campaign finance compliance and other areas of more specialized expertise, Locke Liddell can tout a full-package approach for clients from the Gulf Coast to the Potomac. The law firm had strengthened its positions in Austin as well with partner Bruce LaBoon's connections in the east wing of the Capitol and public law section chairman Robert Miller's good working relationships in the House. Miller has stepped up to the election-year plate as a point person for lawmakers and others who want to take advantage of Houston's vast field of potential for raising campaign funds.

The former METRO board chairman and ex-state Senate aide has been organizing fundraisers in Houston and other parts of the state while somehow finding time to commute back and forth to offices in Austin and Houston. The short story is that Locke Liddell is ranked number one for the third consecutive year on the list of top law firm lobby practices because it wants to be a player under the domes and tries to do what it takes to make things happen.

Under "Rising Lobby Stars to Watch": Yuniedth Midence, a former chief of staff for State Senator John Whitmire, is a key member of the public affairs team at the Locke Liddell law firm, where her former boss has the 'of counsel' position.

TOP LAW FIRM LOBBY PRACTICES	
1	<u>Locke Liddell & Sapp</u> Brian Cassidy, Gary Compton, Michael Harris, Bruce LaBoon, Yuniedth Midence, Robert Miller, Alan Waldrop
2	<u>Vinson & Elkins</u> Susan Harris, John Howard, Bill Jones, Ron Kirk, Elizabeth Rogers, Barron Wallace, Joe Bill Watkins
3	<u>Akin Gump</u> Tom Bond, Sandy Kress, Demetrius McDaniel, Jody Richardson
4	<u>Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal</u> Allen Beinke, Becky Klein, Lisa Mayes
5	<u>Hance, Scarborough, Wright, Ginsberg</u> Kent Hance, Robert Floyd
6	<u>Gardere Wynne Sewell</u> Elton Bomer, Steve Koebele, A.W. (Woody) Pogue, Carl Richie, Mark Vane, Kimberly Yelkin
7	<u>Jackson Walker</u> Trey Blocker, Kathy Hutto, Ed Small
8	<u>Bracewell & Giuliani</u> Jim Chapman, Shannon Ratliff II, David Thompson, Jill Warren
9	<u>Hughes Luce</u> Jack Erskine, Myra Leo, Denice Marchman, Larry McGinnis, Marc Shivers
10	<u>McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore</u> Gaylord Armstrong, Campbell McGinnis, Keith Strama
11	<u>Baker Botts</u> Tristan Castaneda, Pamela Giblin, Robert Strauser
12	<u>Winstead, Sechrist & Minick</u> Robert Bass, Janis Carter
13	<u>Kemp Smith</u> Clyde Alexander, Thomas Forbes
14	<u>Allen Boone Humphries Robinson</u> Joe B. Allen
15	<u>Thompson & Knight</u> Victor Alcorta
TOP (50) HIRED GUN CONTRACT LOBBYISTS	
12	Robert Miller Locke Liddell Law Firm Partner, Former Houston METRO Chairman, Former State Senate aide
RISING (10) LOBBY STARS TO WATCH	
4	Yuniedth Midence Locke Liddell, Former State Senate Aide