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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LOCKE LIDDELL & SAPP AND LORD BISSELL & BROOK APPROVE COMBINATION TO FORM FIRM OF 700 ATTORNEYS WITH 11 OFFICES

September 12, 2007 -- Attorneys at Texas-based Locke Liddell & Sapp PLLC and Lord Bissell & Brook LLP, a national firm headquartered in Chicago, have voted to approve combining the two firms. The new firm, Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP, will have approximately 700 attorneys with offices in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. The combination will go into effect on October 2, 2007.

The new firm will have gross revenues of approximately \$400 million, placing it within *American Lawyer's* "AmLaw 100" annual rankings of the top U.S. law firms. Locke Liddell & Sapp's managing partner Jerry Clements will serve as its chair. Lord, Bissell & Brook's current chair, Thomas Jenkins, and Locke Liddell & Sapp's Marc Watts will serve as the firm's co-vice chairs.

Other members of the combined firm's Executive Committee will be Locke Liddell lawyers Ed DeYoung, Don Glendenning and Bill Swanstrom, as well as Lord Bissell lawyers Tom Cunningham, Nick DiGiovanni and Jackie Klein. Bryan Goolsby, Locke Liddell & Sapp former managing partner, will serve as executive chair and will advise the Executive Committee on financial and strategic matters.

"This merger of equals represents a shared vision by the attorneys of both firms to provide opportunities that ensure the long-term success of our lawyers and our clients," Ms. Clements said. "It became very clear during our meetings over the past three months that both firms have similar cultures, share the same objectives and philosophies, and want to build on each other's strengths and experiences. Together, we will immediately realize geographic diversity, establish a larger national footprint and increase our breadth and depth."

Ms. Clements went on to say, "As Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, we have a partnership that is diverse, dynamic and positioned to be competitive and successful in the 21st century. Most importantly, we will have the expertise, size and commitment to serve our clients effectively and efficiently in the years to come."

Mr. Jenkins added, "Our firms' practices complement one another. This combination allows us to expand our legal expertise and provide service to clients in additional industries from offices

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located throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom. It also enables us to recruit top legal talent and increases the firm's net worth so we are better able to finance the firm's future growth."

Established in 1891, Locke Liddell & Sapp PLLC is recognized as one of the leading law firms in Texas and Louisiana, representing a broad range of businesses and individual clients having extensive domestic and foreign business interests. Among other areas of practice, Locke Liddell & Sapp is known for its strong corporate, litigation, appellate, REIT, energy, public law and real estate finance practices.

Lord Bissell & Brook LLP was founded in 1914 and serves international clients from seven offices throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom. The firm is internationally known for its complex litigation and regulatory and transactional work in the insurance and reinsurance industries and, for the past six years, has been recognized by *Reactions* magazine as the #1 U.S. law firm in both industries. The firm also has strong practices in both the banking and health care industries, as well as a national reputation in the area of class action defense.

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