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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCKE LORD BISSELL & LIDDELL AUSTIN PARTNER ELECTED TO THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF APPELLATE LAWYERS

(AUSTIN) November 26, 2008 – Charles “Skip” Watson, a Partner based in the Austin office of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, has been elected as a Fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Appellate Lawyers (AAAL). The Academy is a nonprofit organization of appellate lawyers from across the nation devoted to the improvement and enhancement of the standards of appellate practice, and the administration of justice and ethics of the profession as they relate to appellate practice. The process of being elected to the AAAL is rigorous. Membership is by invitation and is limited to 500 attorneys nationwide. The present membership is only 288. Watson will be inducted in Austin in March 2009.

In being elected, Watson joins a distinguished group which includes existing member Michael A. Hatchell, the head of Locke Lord’s nationwide Appellate Practice Group who also is based in Austin. Locke Lord is one of a handful of law firms that has more than one member of the AAAL.

Watson is board certified in both civil appellate law and civil trial law. Cited for his exceptional talent in appellate advocacy, he has been an advocate for clients throughout Texas and surrounding states for 30 years. He has educated colleagues as a frequent lecturer on appellate law and procedure and has been the course director for the State Bar of Texas’ Advanced Civil Appellate Course and Advanced Civil Trial Course which prepare attorneys for board certification examinations in those specialties. Prior to serving as chair of the Appellate Practice and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Texas, Watson chaired the committee that drafted the Standards for Appellate Conduct adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. He currently serves on a 52 member committee appointed to advise the Supreme Court of Texas on procedural issues. Watson received his law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law, and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Abilene Christian 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 is focused on achieving client success as a team. Among Locke Lord’s many strong practice areas are appellate, aviation, 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.