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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACCOMPLISHED HOUSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEYS GERALD J. PELS AND GERALD D. HIGDON REJOIN LOCKE LORD BISSELL & LIDDELL AS PARTNERS

(HOUSTON) February 9, 2009 – Gerald J. Pels, a highly experienced and renowned environmental attorney, has rejoined Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell as a Partner based in the Firm’s Houston office. Pels, whose practice focuses on environmental compliance, permitting and litigation, has spent all but two years of his 26-year legal career at Locke Lord. Gerald D. Higdon also has rejoined Locke Lord as a Partner in the Houston office. For 18 years Higdon has concentrated his practice exclusively in the area of environmental law, with significant emphasis on brownfields redevelopment and environmental counseling.

Both Pels and Higdon return to Locke Lord from Sutherland, where Pels was Chair of Sutherland’s national Environmental Practice Group. They both were members of that firm’s Energy and Environmental Practice Group.

“We are delighted to welcome these two fine attorneys back home to Locke Lord. They are two top-notch lawyers,” said Marc Watts, Managing Partner of Locke Lord’s Houston office and co-Vice Chair of the Firm. “Their background and experience on legal issues pertaining to the environment adds substantial depth to our national Environmental Practice, and will help our clients meet the significant environmental challenges that lie ahead.”

Both Pels and Higdon are recognized in the “Best Lawyers” publication, and Pels has been recognized in Chambers Guide to Leading Lawyers since 2004. A frequent writer and lecturer on environmental issues, as well as a member of several local professional organizations, Pels received his law degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Law, and his A.B. degree from St. Joseph’s University. Higdon has also had a significant presence in selected publications, and has delivered numerous presentations on topics related to the environment. He received his law degree from The University of Texas School of Law, and his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from Texas Tech 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, San Francisco 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, intellectual property, labor and employment, public law, real estate, regulatory, REIT, tax and technology.