



Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell<sup>LLP</sup>

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LOCKE LORD'S NATIONAL REAL ESTATE/FINANCE PRACTICE CONTINUES GROWTH WITH ADDITION OF TWO CHICAGO PARTNERS

(CHICAGO) March 7, 2011 – Well-respected national real estate attorneys Grace Y. Poe and Samuel Stempel have joined the Chicago office of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell as Partners in its growing Real Estate & Finance Practice Group. They join their former DLA Piper colleagues Lawrence J. Fey and Kenneth I. Weiner as members of a team led by Partner Lou Cohen, Chair of Locke Lord's national Finance, Banking and Real Estate Department. Cohen joined the Chicago office in November. The additions of Poe and Stempel and their well-established real estate connections and clients further raise Locke Lord's transactional real estate profile nationwide.

"The depth which Grace and Sam add to our real estate finance, development and investment team help put us in a prominent position in this core practice area," said Chicago Managing Partner Jennifer Kenedy. "The respect, trust and experience they've built up through their real estate careers are great additions to Locke Lord in Chicago and around the country."

Poe represents institutional, commercial and developer clients in the purchase, financing, development, leasing and disposition of all types of properties, including office, retail, multifamily and hotel. Her focus on commercial real estate development, acquisition and disposition, finance and leasing is broad-based and national in scope. Poe earned her law degree *cum laude* from Northwestern University School of Law. She is an active volunteer in Chicago and in 2008 was honored with the Chicago Bar Association's Maurice S. Weigle Award recognizing young lawyers who have made exceptional contributions to the profession, the organized bar and the community. She also was a member of the 2008 Fellows Program of Leadership Greater Chicago and currently sits on its Board of Directors.

Stempel's practice covers all aspects of real estate finance, development and investment, and his clients include lenders, developers and buyers. He also represents investors in multifamily, office, retail, hotel, manufactured home community, industrial and development projects. He is skilled in structuring complex financing transactions through traditional mortgage loans, mezzanine loans and other financing and investment mechanisms. He also earned his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law and immediately joined DLA Piper, where he worked for nearly 20 years.

"I have worked with Grace and Sam – as well as Larry Fey – for 20 years or more and I have the greatest respect for their work, their service to clients and their commitment to family and community," said Cohen. "After just four months at Locke Lord, it's obvious to me that our plans for the creation and expansion of a stellar Chicago Real Estate and Finance practice that reflects the depth, quality and collaborative nature of the Firm's national practice has exceeded all expectations in a very short time."

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP consistently ranks among *American Lawyer's* top 100 U.S. law firms. Our 30-plus practice 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. We have built a solid reputation in complex litigation, regulatory and transactional work, and our nearly 650 attorneys build collaborative relationships and craft creative solutions – all designed and executed to meet clients' long-term strategic goals. At the end of each year, we want our Firm to be better, stronger and more highly regarded than it was at the beginning.

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