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For Immediate Release

Locke Lord Atlanta Partner Elizabeth J. Campbell Helps Coach Grady High School Mock Trial Team to Top U.S. Finish

(ATLANTA) May 23, 2012 – Locke Lord Partner Elizabeth J. Campbell, a civil litigation and arbitration attorney in the Firm’s Atlanta office, helped coach the city’s award-winning Henry W. Grady High School mock trial team to a top finish in the recent National Mock Trial competition. The Grady High team finished second overall in the nation against 45 championship teams from 42 states and three foreign countries.

The team practiced three or four nights a week, as well as most weekends, for about seven months to hone the skills needed to carry out a near-perfect trial. The team includes students from all grades, although the core group of the eight-member national championship team included six seniors. “Their enthusiasm and energy for learning the law and learning the rules are incredible, and their perspective is refreshing. They teach me things,” Campbell said. She is one of five Atlanta attorneys who put in hundreds of pro bono hours coaching and working with the team since November 2011. The team won the Atlanta regional competition in February and the Georgia state competition in March in order to advance to the national championship, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in early May.

Campbell has been involved in mock trial competition since her undergraduate days at her alma mater, Furman University. Since earning her law degree at The University of Texas School of Law, she has judged local and regional mock trial competitions at both the collegiate and law school levels, and she also has worked with the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division Intrastate Moot Court Committee, which annually sponsors the moot court competition among students from all Georgia law schools.

The Grady High mock trial team follows a long tradition at the Atlanta school. It is the only team in Georgia to win the state title four consecutive times (six times total) and placed fourth overall nationally last year. The Georgia General Assembly recently passed a resolution recognizing the team’s achievement. The intense national competition involves students acting out a full trial by playing the roles of both witnesses and attorneys in front of a panel of professional lawyers and judges, and competing against other teams acting out the other side of the case. The teams compete multiple times during the two-day competition.

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