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For Immediate Release

Locke Lord Team Recognized by Leading Finance Magazine for Work on El Paso LBO Cited As Private Equity Deal of the Year

April 1, 2013 – International law firm Locke Lord is among a group of firms recognized by the *International Financial Law Review (IFLR) Americas Awards* for its work on the Private Equity Deal of the Year. Houston attorneys Joe Perillo, Terry Radney, Mike Rutledge and Greg Heath represented El Paso Corp. in the company's \$7.15 billion sale of its oil and gas exploration and production business, EP Energy Corp. The leveraged buyout (LBO) by Apollo and a consortium of private equity companies was tied to the Kinder Morgan acquisition of El Paso, cited as one of the biggest energy deals in history.

IFLR covers major developments in international finance, including capital markets, banking, M&A, and financial regulation. Locke Lord's team was among 11 law firms recognized for bringing the Apollo led LBO to fruition. The sale was the second-largest private equity takeover of an energy producer. Work on the sale began in late 2011 and involved the complete sale of El Paso's oil and gas assets, both in the United States and abroad.

Locke Lord's Corporate and Energy lawyers have depth and breadth of experience in all phases of corporate energy transactions and financings and represent public and private companies in connection with mergers and acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, securities offerings, corporate restructurings, venture capital, private equity financings, LBOs, corporate governance and other matters. The Firm's corporate energy strength is global in scope, with attorneys in all 11 U.S. offices, and in London and Hong Kong, regularly representing energy industry clients in numerous multimillion dollar transactions.

Locke Lord LLP consistently ranks among *American Lawyer's* top 100 U.S. law firms. The Firm's full range of practice and industry areas serve international and national 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. It has an excellent reputation in complex litigation, regulatory and transactional work, with its 650-plus lawyers building collaborative relationships and crafting creative solutions – all designed and executed to meet clients' long-term strategic goals.

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