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For Immediate Release

Locke Lord Recognized Again As Gold Standard Certified Firm by Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF) for 2013

June 18, 2013 – Locke Lord has been recognized for the second consecutive year with Gold Standard Certification by the Women in Law Empowerment Forum or WILEF, an organization that helps women in law gain leadership roles within the AmLaw 100 and throughout the legal industry. With stricter standards this year, fewer firms met the Gold Standard criteria, and Locke Lord was among only 42 firms nationwide to receive the WILEF certification, which is open to firms with at least 100 practicing attorneys that can demonstrate through numbers that they have integrated women into the highest levels of firm leadership.

Locke Lord is among only a handful of AmLaw Top100 firms with a woman as Chair, and the Firm has established a solid track record of promoting deserving women to leadership roles in the 650-attorney international Firm. “We are thrilled to receive this WILEF recognition again this year, especially in light of the tightened criteria,” said Firm Chair Jerry Clements. “Each year, Locke Lord strives to do more to recruit, hire and retain outstanding women attorneys who can rise to leadership ranks within this Firm, and we’re dedicated to improving these numbers at every opportunity.”

Women hold high profile leadership positions on the Firm’s Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Fifteen percent of Locke Lord’s practice groups and sections are led by women partners, and women also chair and co-chair several Firm committees and initiatives, including the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, the Diversity Committee, the Women’s Initiative, the Pro Bono Committee and others.

In addition to its own Women’s Initiative, led by Co-Chairs and Partners Jennifer Kenedy and Hanna Norvell, Locke Lord is a member of the Chicago Coalition of Women’s Initiatives in Law Firms and the Houston Bar Association Gender Fairness Initiative. Clements serves on the Board of Directors of the National Women’s Council, a non-profit organization that seeks to provide a collective voice for women of all backgrounds, classes and ages.

The Firm’s women attorneys have received numerous honors. Clements has been named among the Top 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America by *The National Law Journal*; Kenedy, who serves as Managing Partner of the Firm’s Chicago office, received the 2012 Esther Rothstein Award from the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois in recognition of her leadership and her efforts to empower women in the legal field and beyond. She also was



selected as one of the "Most Powerful and Influential Women of Illinois" by the National Diversity Council.

WILEF measures its Gold Standard Firms through a series of six measurements that show exact numbers of women in leadership roles. To be certified, firms must meet four of the following criteria:

- 20 percent of equity partners are women
- 10 percent of firm chairs and managing partners are women
- 20 percent of the firm's primary governance committee are women
- 20 percent of the firm's compensation committee or its equivalent are women
- 25 percent of the firm's practice group leaders and/or department heads are women
- 10 percent of the top half of the most highly compensated equity partners in the firm are women

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 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. 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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