

For Immediate Release

Locke Lord Remains No. 1 Texas Law Firm Lobby Practice, Robert Miller Top Law Firm Lobbyist in *Capitol Inside's* 2015 Rankings

FEBRUARY 5, 2015 – Locke Lord is once again the No. 1 law firm lobby practice in Texas – a position it has held since 2004 – and Partner **Robert Miller**, Chair of the Firm's Texas Public Law Section, is "the highest-ranked lobbyist from a law firm," according to *Capitol Inside's* 2015 Texas Lobby Power Rankings. In addition, Miller is ranked No. 5 out of approximately 2,000 Texas lobbyists, and four additional members of Locke Lord's Public Law group are listed in the Power Rankings.

Capitol Inside, a closely followed Texas political and government affairs website based in Austin, said "Miller has stressed the teamwork approach more than other leaders of law firm lobby groups whose members tend to work more independently and autonomously even though they have the same employer and share office space."

Capitol Inside credited Locke Lord's "high presence at the statehouse in Austin" and Miller's "teamwork approach" to lobbying efforts over the years to the Firm's remaining at the top of the publication's bi-annual lobby power rankings.

And the future looks bright for the Firm, *Capitol Inside* noted: "The **Locke Lord** team can expect to flex more muscle than ever this year in light of a key role that Miller played in new Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's fundraising efforts and lobby colleague **Gardner Pate's** recent experience as the chief outside legal advisor for Governor Greg Abbott's campaign in 2014."

"Robert and the lobbying team over the years have consistently provided great results for our clients while always maintaining the highest level of ethical standards," said Locke Lord Chair **Jerry Clements**. "The team's performance demonstrates the talent of that group and reflects on just how strong our Public Law section is, and why we continue to be the 'go-to' law firm lobbying team in Texas."

Miller has established a stellar reputation in the last 25 years via his lobbying efforts on behalf of local, state and federal governments, as well as public and private concerns. He successfully worked to keep the Houston Astros in Houston through creation of a Sports Authority, which led to the construction of a retractable roof stadium. He has also served in a variety of top level leadership positions, including four years as chair of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas.

Also cited in this year's Texas Lobby Power Rankings are:

- A member of Locke Lord's Public Law, Governmental & Public Affairs Practice Group, **Yuniedth Midence Steen** is ranked No. 12 (up from No. 15 in the last ranking) on this year's *Capitol Inside's* Hired Guns list. She is former Chief of Staff to State Sen. John Whitmire and has been with Locke Lord for more than 14 years. *Capitol Inside* has said Steen is one of the best and most popular lobbyists in Austin.
- **Public Law Associate Gardner Pate** is No. 24 on this year's Hired Gun list, moving from "Rising Star" status in 2013. Pate's value to the Firm's lobbying team "soared," according to *Capitol Inside*, "in light of his role as a director and chief legal advisor for Abbott's winning gubernatorial campaign in 2014." In addition to his lobbying practice, Pate maintains an active practice advising clients on Texas campaign finance laws and Texas lobbyist regulations
- **Consultant Nef Partida** is No. 9 on *Capitol Inside's* Rising Stars list. He has served as a communications consultant and strategist to Republican and Democratic campaigns.
- **Consultant Jeri Brooks**, is No. 16 on *Capitol Inside's* Rising Stars list. She is the founder of One World Strategy Group and is a member of the Rebuild Houston Advisory Committee.

Miller and the Public Law team can be reached at 512-305-4867 or rmiller@lockelord.com.

About Locke Lord

Locke Lord is a full-service, international law firm that consistently ranks among American Lawyer's top 100 U.S. law firms. On January 10, 2015, Locke Lord LLP and Edward Wildman Palmer LLP combined to create Locke Lord LLP, a Firm of approximately 1,000 lawyers working from 23 offices to meet clients' needs around the world. With a combined history of more than 125 years and a greatly enhanced domestic and global footprint, Locke Lord now has a stronger team of lawyers with the ability to represent private equity and venture capital clients across a broad spectrum of industries including energy, telecommunications, technology, real estate, health care and life sciences. The combined firm also experienced a significant increase in the depth of its public finance, health care, insurance, reinsurance, intellectual property, financial institutions and fund formation teams.

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