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**For Immediate Release**

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## Locke Lord Announces Four New Members to its Firm-wide Executive Committee; Jerry Clements Re-Elected as Chair of the Firm

**January 23, 2017** – Locke Lord Partners have elected four new members to its Executive Committee: [Michelle Earley](#) of Austin; [Rick Manley](#) of Boston; [Paul Nason](#) of Dallas and [Mike Peters](#) of Houston.

In addition, the Partners have re-elected [Jerry Clements](#) (Austin) as Chair of Locke Lord. Members also elected three Vice Chairs: [Alan Levin](#) (Hartford), [Bill Swanstrom](#) (Houston) and [Tom Yoxall](#) (Dallas).

The other members of the 15-member Executive Committee remain: [James Channo](#) (London), [Nick DiGiovanni](#) (Chicago), [Michael Gaertner](#) (Chicago), [Chris Graham](#) (Providence), [Janis Loegering](#) (Dallas), [David Taylor](#) (Houston) and [George Ticknor](#) (Boston).

In addition, [Ray LaDriere](#) (Dallas), who has served as the Firm's Deputy General Counsel, now is Locke Lord's General Counsel.

Earley is a [Corporate](#) Partner and a member of Locke Lord's Diversity Committee, Women's Initiative Committee, Lateral Hire Committee and the Firm's Practice Development Committee. In her practice, she handles a wide range of corporate and securities work for public and private companies, including master limited partnerships. Earley has extensive experience in merger, acquisition, and disposition transactions, securities regulation matters and securities offerings and advising management and boards of directors on general corporate governance matters.

Manley, a member of the Firm's [Public Finance](#) Practice Group, serves as bond counsel to cities, towns, school districts and various special purpose districts in Massachusetts and throughout New England. His practice involves the issuance of taxable and tax-exempt bonds and notes to finance a wide range of projects for local governments, including significant projects in the water, wastewater, airport and sports venue sectors. Manley was named by *The Best Lawyers in America* the 2015 Boston Public Finance "Lawyer of the Year."

Nason is a member of Locke Lord's Board of Directors, the head of the [Labor and Employment](#) Practice Group in Dallas and a member of the Firm's Benefits Committee. He has focused his entire career on employment and labor law and litigation. For almost 25 years, he has exclusively represented national, regional and local employers and management in state and federal court cases involving employment discrimination, retaliation, whistleblower, wage and hour, and unfair competition matters. He also has extensive experience representing



employers in union matters including elections, collective bargaining negotiations, grievance arbitrations, and unfair labor practice litigation.

Peters heads the Firm's **Mergers & Acquisitions** Section and serves as the Co-Financial Partner for Locke Lord. He has over 25 years of corporate and securities law experience and extensive knowledge in mergers and acquisitions of public and private companies and in raising capital. He also has significant experience in private equity transactions, joint ventures, project development, and partnership and limited liability company structures.

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### **About Locke Lord LLP**

Locke Lord is a full-service, international law firm of more than 20 offices designed to meet clients' needs around the world. The Firm has a history that spans more than 125 years and is a worldwide leader in the middle market sector. Locke Lord advises clients across a broad spectrum of industries including energy, financial services, fund formation, health care, insurance and reinsurance, private equity and venture capital, public finance, real estate, and technology, media and telecommunications, while providing a wealth of experience through its complex litigation, intellectual property, tax, regulatory and transactional teams.