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**For Immediate Release**

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## Locke Lord Promotes Three Attorneys From New Orleans and Chicago Offices to Partnership Positions in 650-Lawyer Firm

**July 2, 2012** – Two attorneys in Chicago and one in New Orleans have been promoted to Partner at Locke Lord, effective immediately. New Orleans attorney Monique Lafontaine and Chicago attorneys T. Patrick Byrnes and Kenneth Weiner are newly named Partners in the 650-attorney international Firm.

Byrnes, formerly Senior Counsel in Chicago, practices in Locke Lord's Litigation Department and is a member of the Aviation Practice Group. In his career, Byrnes has represented domestic and international insurers and insureds in areas including products liability, negligence, insurance coverage and premises liability. Through his extensive aviation experience, Byrnes has defended aircraft component part manufacturers and suppliers, aircraft manufacturers, airlines and airline consortiums, aircraft leasing companies, airports and aviation security companies. He handles aviation cases in jurisdictions spanning from Alaska to Florida, involving both domestic and foreign accidents, and has extensive experience in defending clients' interests in complex, multiparty litigations.

Lafontaine, former Senior Counsel in New Orleans, has practiced commercial and tort litigation in state and federal, district and appellate, courts throughout the State of Louisiana and nationwide for more than 15 years. She is a member of the Litigation Department and the Business Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group. Her litigation experience and practice span a wide range of legal contexts including business/contractual/lease disputes and liabilities, product liability, premises liability, personal injuries and toxic torts. She also has provided coverage analysis to Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, primarily for energy and liability policies. Lafontaine is a past Chair of the Young Lawyer's Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Weiner, former Counsel in Chicago, is a member of Locke Lord's Real Estate and Finance Practice Group and concentrates his practice in transactional real estate law. He has represented institutional, commercial and developer clients in the acquisition, financing, development, leasing and disposition of various property types, including office, retail and industrial. He has years of experience in drafting and negotiating purchase and sale agreements, leases, and agreements relating to mixed-use projects. Weiner is a past Co-Chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyer Section Real Estate Law Committee and a current member of the Cabrini Green Legal Aid Advisory Board.



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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