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New World Law Group President Aims to Continue Building Exceptional Member Quality to Offer Multinational Companies Strong Alternative to Global Firms

*Washington, D.C./*Representatives of World Law Group member firms attending the organization's Fall 2011 Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, October 27 to 30, elected a new President and several new officers and directors.

Founded in 1988, the World Law Group is a global alliance of 51 leading independent law firms with nearly 15,000 lawyers operating in 275 major business centres around the world.

David N. Kay, OBE, was unanimously elected as President for the 2011-2013 term. David is a barrister and partner in the Chicago, Illinois office of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP and formerly served as Secretary of the WLG Board. He concentrates his practice on international corporate transactions. He advises U.S. companies and financial institutions on their overseas operations, with specific emphasis on England, the European Union, the Middle East, Australia and India. David also advises foreign companies and financial institutions establishing operations in the United States. He has traveled extensively and has lived and practiced law in England, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates where he was the resident partner of the Abu Dhabi office of a London-based law firm.

David is the Honorary Legal Advisor to the British Consul-General in Chicago and is a founding member, director and chairman of The British-American Business Council, Chicago. He is a member of the London Court of International Arbitration and sits as an arbitrator on major international cases for the American Arbitration Association and the International Chamber of Commerce.

“With David’s exceptional global experience and perspective, as well as his long involvement with the World Law Group as an active firm representative and Board member, he is ideally suited to lead the organization over the next two years,” said outgoing President Ian Davis, a partner with Minter Ellison in Melbourne, Australia.

In his first address to members as President, David congratulated the previous Board on its many achievements, including the significant progress made in implementing the strategic plan adopted by the WLG at the end of 2010. He promised to continue the organization's long-standing focus on ensuring the highest quality membership of any global legal network – most recently exemplified by a vote by members attending the Istanbul meeting to admit PLMJ as the WLG's new member for Portugal. (PLMJ is widely acknowledged as that country's premier law firm. [See the related news release.](#)) Last spring, the WLG admitted yet another leading firm in its market – Havel, Holásek & Partners of the Czech Republic.

David also confirmed the WLG's intention, articulated in its strategic plan, to more strongly promote the ability of its roster of premier member firms – each a leader in its national or regional market – to provide efficient and cost-effective legal services globally to senior in-house counsel.

“We're witnessing another wave of consolidation in the global legal services market, with another merger announced almost daily, it seems. At the same time, several very large firms are rushing to establish some kind of presence in almost every new or emerging market. We believe that today, more than ever, multinational companies benefit in many ways from working with a strong, well-established local firm – or a dozen of them if that's what the matter demands and if that dozen can work together as seamlessly as any mega-firm. WLG member firms have proven they can do that, on well over 1,000 matters a year. We plan to do a better job of telling that story,” David said.

In achieving this and other goals, David will be assisted by an experienced and talented management team. Other members of the World Law Group Board of Directors for the 2011-2013 term are:

- **Dr. Christian Traichel**, who was first elected as a Board member in 2009 and who will continue in the role of Treasurer. Christian is a partner in the Munich office of Taylor Wessing and advises on all aspects of corporate law. His main areas of practice are national and cross-border M&A transactions and joint ventures as well as advice on company transformations and corporate groups. His clients include leading national and international companies and start-up ventures. He is a lecturer at the CDTM Institute of the Universities of Munich (LMU and TU) as well as at the Munich Business School.
- **Mr. Stuart Young**, who will serve as Secretary. Stuart is a partner with Wragge & Co in England and advises the firm's large corporate and private equity clients on acquisitions, disposals and joint ventures and on company law and corporate governance issues. Stuart leads the firm's automotive industry group and acts for many global automotive clients and is heavily involved in advising the firm's technology clients. He has advised on major international transactions involving businesses in Europe and beyond. Stuart lived in the U.S. during his early years and has since worked extensively with U.S. and Canadian clients.

- **Mr. Michael Evans**, who will return as a Director for a third term and continue his oversight responsibilities for the WLG's 15 global practice and industry groups. Michael is a partner of and heads up the Public Law Practice Group at Webber Wentzel in South Africa, where he specializes in the fields of regulatory, local government and general administrative law, and also practises constitutional, public transport, procurement, and public-private partnership law. Michael previously served as Managing Director and Chairman of Mallinicks Inc., which merged with Webber Wentzel in 2008, and has served on the Webber Wentzel board. He also chairs one of the largest private philanthropy organizations in Africa.
- **Mr. Jorge León-Orantes**, who joins the WLG Board as a Director and also assumes the role of Chair of the WLG's Business Development Committee, on which he has served as an active member in recent years. Jorge is a partner in the Mexico City office of Santamarina y Steta, where his professional practice is focused on the M&A sector, representing Mexican and non-Mexican clients in Mexico and abroad with regard to Mexican issues. His expertise includes cross-border M&A, insurance matters, bank lending and education law.
- **Dr. Heike Wagner**, who joins the Board as a Director. Heike will also take on the role of chairing the WLG's new Multi-jurisdictional Projects Committee, which identifies and implements new initiatives designed to help member firms serve multinational clients more efficiently and effectively. Heike is a partner in the Frankfurt, Germany office of CMS Hasche Sigle, where her practice focuses on corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity. She advises numerous strategic and financial investors, both national and international, on their investments and other activities in Germany. Heike previously served as Co-Chair of the WLG's Corporate International Transactions Practice Group. She joined CMS Hasche Sigle in 1992 and became a partner in 1998. She spent 1997 in New York working with a U.S. investment bank and a law firm.

Returning as World Law Group Regional Directors for the second year of their two-year terms are:

- *Director, Americas Region:* **Ms. Kathleen Smith Rubland**. Kathy is Co-chair of Faegre & Benson LLP's international practice, and advises clients on cross-border transactions, including international M&A, restructuring, and joint ventures, in established and emerging markets throughout the world. She splits her time between the firm's Minneapolis, U.S.A. and London offices. (Faegre & Benson recently announced it will merge with Indianapolis-based Baker & Daniels effective January 1, 2012.)
- *Director, Asia-Pacific Region:* **Mr. Mikio Tanaka**. A partner with City-Yuwa Partners in Tokyo, Japan, Mikio has extensive professional experience in advising global and domestic companies across many industries, including medical devices, healthcare, automobile, machinery, electronics, chemical, food, fashion, jewellery, air and surface

transports, and clean energy. His area of practice encompasses a full spectrum of commercial and corporate matters, including M&A, joint venture, license agreement, formation and termination of distribution networks, and representation of companies in various commercial disputes.

- *Director, European Region: **Dr. Peter Huber.*** Peter is managing partner at CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz in Vienna, Austria, and head of the firm's international transactions team. Peter has over 20 years of professional experience – including more than four years with major investment banks. His main areas of practice are mergers and acquisitions (including privatisations and public takeovers) as well as banking and finance. He is author of numerous publications in the field of corporate law and takeover law, including the leading commentary on the Austrian Take-over Code.

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