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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCKE LORD BISSELL & LIDDELL AUSTIN ATTORNEY NAMED BEST LAWYERS' 2010 AUSTIN APPELLATE LAWYER OF THE YEAR

(AUSTIN) December 14, 2009 – Michael A. Hatchell, an attorney based in the Austin office of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell and Chair of the Firm's Appellate Practice Group, has been named Best Lawyers' 2010 Austin Appellate Lawyer of the Year. Hatchell was selected based on the particularly high ratings he has received on Best Lawyers' comprehensive and rigorous peer-review surveys of the legal profession (where thousands of leading attorneys confidentially evaluate their professional peers), and for earning a high level of respect among his peers for his abilities, professionalism and integrity. After more than a quarter-century in publication, Best Lawyers is designating Lawyers of the Year in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities. Hatchell's recognition comes on the heels of his selection as the "Go To" appellate lawyer in Texas in the *Texas Lawyer* "Go-To Guide," and his designation as among the best in his practice area in the recently released 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, which also ranked Locke Lord No. 1 in Austin in Appellate Law.

Hatchell also received a Tier 1 state ranking in the area of Litigation: Appellate by *Chambers USA America's Leading Lawyers for Business* in its 2009 Clients Guide, which also gave him high national marks in Appellate Law.

Throughout his long legal career, Hatchell has been lead counsel in more than 200 appeals. He has argued 46 appeals or original proceedings in the Supreme Court of Texas, has argued *en banc* to the federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and has appeared in all 14 courts of appeal in Texas. Hatchell is one of 300 elected members of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He is past Chair of the Texas Appellate Practice and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Texas, serves on the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee, and is a well-known lecturer on a variety of appellate issues and developing Texas law. Hatchell received his Bachelor of Laws degree from The University of Texas School of Law, and his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from The University of Texas at Austin.

Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP is a full-service, national law firm with offices in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Sacramento, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. With a vast geographic scope, and a national reputation in complex litigation, regulatory and transactional work, Locke Lord is focused on achieving client success as a team. Among Locke Lord's many strong practice areas are appellate, aviation, corporate, class action litigation, employee benefits, energy, environmental, financial services, health care, insurance and reinsurance industries, intellectual property, labor and employment, public law, real estate, REIT, tax and technology.