

MAY 17, 2004

TEXAS LAWYER

Inadmissible

New Appellate Section

Three power players in appellate law are joining **Locke Liddell & Sapp** in Austin. **Bryan Goolsby**, the firm's managing partner, announced recently that **Mike** and **Molly Hatchell**, owners of the **Hatchell Law Firm** in Tyler,

joined Locke Liddell, effective on May 1, and that **Charles R. "Skip" Watson**, a partner in Amarillo's **Mullin, Hoard & Brown**, will join Locke Liddell on June 1. Goolsby also announced the creation of the firm's appellate section, which will be headed by Mike Hatchell, who was named one of the top five appellate lawyers in the state in *Texas Lawyer's* "Go-To Guide" in October 2002. Mike Hatchell says he is at a point in his career where he's accomplished a lot of what he intended to do. But Hatchell says he has always been intrigued by the working of a large firm's appellate section. He says Locke Liddell has "a real vision" about what it wants to do and is committed to having the right people in place to do it. Molly Hatchell is the creator of The Hatchell Report, a public access database service for members of the bar that identifies all cases under consideration, but not yet decided by the Texas Supreme Court. Watson, immediate past chairman of the State Bar of Texas Appellate Section, says a combination of things attracted him to the Locke Liddell offer. "The opportunity to argue more before the Texas Supreme Court was a very big part of it," he says. Watson says he also jumped at an opportunity to work with Mike and Molly Hatchell and to be a part of Locke Liddell's appellate section. He and the Hatchells each are uprooting their practices and moving some 500 miles to do this, Watson says.