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Global Head of Oil & Gas for Baker Botts Joins Morgan Lewis

~ Asmus to lead firm's unique Energy Transactions Practice ~

HOUSTON, TX, June 23, 2009: Solidifying its position as a full-service legal resource for the energy industry, Morgan Lewis today announced the addition of David Asmus—formerly the global head of the Oil and Gas Practice at Baker Botts—and Michael King as partners in its Business and Finance Practice, resident in Houston. Their strong client base and international recognition complement the firm's energy transactions team—whose representations cover the entire industry spectrum, from utility finance to oil and gas and from renewables to work on behalf of independent power producers—and its long-established, leading energy regulatory practice. Mr. Asmus will lead the firm's Energy Transactions Practice.

“David and Michael add another important dimension to our unique capabilities in energy-focused transactions,” notes Firm Chair Francis M. Milone. “At a time when volatile markets, international challenges, increased regulation, and unprecedented opportunities for innovation in the energy industry make comprehensive legal advice more important than ever, the firm's enhanced capabilities across the board—our top-notch regulatory group, a more focused transactional group dedicated to the industry, and litigators across the firm well-versed in the industry's most pressing concerns—will serve our clients well.”

Morgan Lewis's Energy Transactions Practice combines industry and regional knowledge and experience throughout the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, with global resources in project development, corporate transactions, energy regulation, tax, environmental, project financing, and related structured financing across the full spectrum of sectors in the energy industry.

“With transactional capabilities across the world's energy and financial epicenters—from Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and New York to London and Tokyo—and a top-flight regulatory team in Washington, D.C. and Brussels, Morgan Lewis offers the experience and reach our clients need as they face rapidly changing conditions in today's market,” says David Asmus.

Mr. Asmus will join as leader of the Energy Transactions Practice, comprising attorneys across the firm's offices whose clients range from major utilities to oil and gas companies to small alternative energy startups, and who focus on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and securities. He has led one of the top-ranked Oil and Gas Practices for more than a decade and received numerous awards—including, most recently, "International Lawyer of the Year" in Oil & Gas for 2008—and held key leadership positions within the industry, including serving as past president of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators.

Mr. Asmus focuses his practice on oil and gas development projects (including LNG and unconventional resource projects, FPSO and platform-based offshore developments, and integrated field development, pipeline, and processing projects), acquisitions and divestitures (including auction and negotiated sales and property exchanges), and energy-based financings (including project financings, reserve-based loans, and production payments). His clients run the gamut from Fortune 100 energy companies to leading independent oil and gas producers.

Mr. King, who was an engineer with KBR prior to his legal career, primarily represents oil and gas companies in upstream transactional matters, with a focus on acquisitions and divestitures of oil and gas properties and project development. Listed as a "Rising Star" in Texas, he has worked on some of the world's most challenging gas projects, including the greenfield Tangguh and EG LNG projects.

Messrs. Asmus and King join a business and finance team that already spans the United States, Europe, and Asia, with nearly 400 transactional lawyers who focus on a wide variety of areas, including mergers and acquisitions, private equity, finance, and capital markets.

In addition, Morgan Lewis has nearly tripled its Texas presence over the past year and a half—drawing nearly 50 new lawyers, including such notable talent as the state's former Solicitor General, Ted Cruz. Lawyers in the firm's Houston office focus on energy transactions, intellectual property and patent litigation, commercial litigation, product liability and toxic tort litigation, insurance recovery, mergers and acquisitions, and international/cross border transactions, as well as labor and employment.

About Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Morgan Lewis is an international law firm with more than 1,400 lawyers in 22 offices located in Beijing, Boston, Brussels, Chicago, Dallas, Frankfurt, Harrisburg, Houston, Irvine, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Palo Alto, Paris, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Princeton, San Francisco, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C. For more information about Morgan Lewis, please visit www.morganlewis.com.

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