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Morgan Lewis Draws Leading Finance Lawyers, Broadens Its Boston Presence

BOSTON, MA, June 17, 2009: Morgan Lewis today announced the addition of five partners and eight associates from Bingham McCutchen's Banking and Leveraged Finance Group—including a former co-chair of the practice—to its Business and Finance Practice, resident in the firm's Boston office. Partners Robert A.J. Barry, Jonathan K. Bernstein, Sula R. Fiszman, Matthew F. Furlong, and Sandra J. Vrejan will focus their practice on corporate finance, as well as restructuring. Their experience across a broad range of industries—including retail, manufacturing, food and beverage, energy, media, communications, and sports—adds to the depth of knowledge Morgan Lewis offers clients as they face today's rapidly changing economic conditions. In addition, their arrival significantly increases the firm's presence in Boston.

"Particularly in light of the difficult credit markets faced by both our lender and borrower clients, there is an ever-increasing need for us to be able to provide additional top-flight financing expertise across a multitude of industries," said Firm Chair Francis M. Milone. "This expansion reflects our continued commitment to providing clients with the kind of counsel they need to execute credit transactions in any business environment."

"Our newest partners bring deep and broad experience in sophisticated and complex domestic and international financing transactions," added David W. Pollak, leader of the firm's Business and Finance Practice. "They add more depth to the lending and restructuring resources in which our firm is already strong, and give our clients additional first-rate lawyers on whom to rely."

Drawn by the depth and breadth of the firm's capabilities in a number of areas, they join a business and finance team that spans the United States, Europe, and Asia, with nearly 400 transactional lawyers who focus on a wide variety of areas, including finance, bankruptcy and restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, private equity, and capital markets.

The new partners are:

Robert A. J. Barry: Mr. Barry focuses his practice on the structuring and restructuring of domestic and international financing transactions. He counsels clients in identifying and mitigating risks and regularly advises agents of lending syndicates in connection with the origination and workouts of various financing deals and transactions. Mr. Barry has a unique relationship with his lending clients in that he does both the origination and the workout/restructuring work, whereas lending clients usually move a troubled loan away from the origination lawyer. He received his J.D. from Villanova University School of Law in 1987 and his B.A. from Haverford College in 1983.

Jonathan K. Bernstein: Mr. Bernstein's practice focuses on general corporate finance, including debt financings, structured financings, workouts, and bankruptcies across numerous industries, including energy, transportation, media, sports, and numerous national and regional restaurant chains. His many clients include a number of Fortune 500 companies. He also represents a number of funds that have engaged in distressed deal transactions, as well as senior, second lien, mezzanine, and debtor-in-possession financings. Mr. Bernstein has a significant background in representing clients in all aspects of professional sports enterprises, including the financing of sports teams, stadiums, and arenas. He received his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1987 and his B.A., summa cum laude, from Brandeis University in 1984.

Sula R. Fiszman: Ms. Fiszman represents financial institutions, private equity funds, and other companies in complex senior secured finance transactions, subordinated and second lien lending transactions, structured finance, workouts, and bankruptcies. Her clients cross many industries, including media and communications; restaurants, food, and beverage; oil and gas exploration, refining, and distribution; retail service station operations; convenience store chains; and manufacturing. Ms. Fiszman also handles cross-border transactions relating to the South African equivalent of ESOP/minority ownership transactions here. She received her J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1984; her M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1981; and her B.A., with highest honors, from the University of Chicago in 1979, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

Matthew F. Furlong: Mr. Furlong represents leading financial institutions and borrowers in a broad range of finance and business matters, including domestic and international debt, mezzanine and equity financings, debt restructurings, asset-based credit facilities, second lien credit facilities, acquisition finance and retail finance, and multinational credit facilities. The main focus of Mr. Furlong's practice has been front-end and restructuring transactions in the retail, restaurant, financial services, and manufacturing industries. He also handles finance work for numerous sports teams. Mr. Furlong received his J.D., magna cum laude, from Boston College Law School in 1994 and his B.A., cum laude, from the University of Chicago in 1989.

Sandra J. Vrejan: Ms. Vrejan focuses her practice on a broad range of domestic and international commercial financings, secured transactions, and financial restructurings. She represents lenders and borrowers in a variety of secured, unsecured, and syndicated transactions, and has represented creditors and debtors in workouts and restructurings. Ms. Vrejan serves a diverse client base, including lending and financial institutions, investment funds, borrowers, emerging growth companies, and public and private companies across a range of industries. She received her J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law in 1995 and her B.A. from Boston University in 1990. Following law school, she clerked for Judge James B. Haines, Jr. of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine. Ms. Vrejan, who is fluent in French, Spanish, and English, also has been cited by President Bill Clinton for her pro bono accomplishments in political asylum cases.

The new associates who will join the firm in Boston include Anastasia J. Cavaris, Kate Haskell, Kevin T. Jarboe, Victoria A. Labriola, Marc R. Leduc, Mark D. Silva, Albert L. Tsoi, and Brian K. Yoo.

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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