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**The Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF)
Announces Formation of Law Firm Leadership Council**

New York, NY, February 26, 2013 -- The Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF) announces the formation of its Law Firm Leadership Council. Comprised of law firm leaders who have distinguished themselves in advancing women in the profession, the members of the Council will provide clear insight into how WILEF advances its certification initiative. The Council will also be called upon for advice in connection with other matters as WILEF continues to grow into one of the most important voices for women in law firms. Members of the Council include:

Candace K. Beinecke, Chair, Hughes Hubbard & Reed
Claudette M. Christian, Co-Chair Emeritus of the Global Board, Hogan Lovells
Joe Conroy, Chief Executive Officer, Cooley,
Kenneth M. Doran, Managing Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Eric J. Friedman, Executive Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Robert Giles, Firmwide Managing Partner, Perkins Coie
Gregory B. Jordan, Global Managing Partner, Reed Smith
Carter G. Phillips, Incoming Chair, Sidley Austin
Philip T. (Pete) Ruegger III, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
Keith C. Wetmore, Chair Emeritus, Morrison & Foerster

WILEF’s National Vice Chair, Natasha Innocenti, a partner with Major, Lindsey & Africa, is responsible for shepherding the activities of the Council. “Clearly our Gold Standard Certification initiative required the input of law firm leaders. And so we asked and they delivered. The Law Firm Leadership Council was responsible for providing guidance for this year’s Certification application and provided guidance for future years”, said Innocenti. Co-Founder and National Chair of WILEF, Betiayn Tursi, said it was her feeling that WILEF needed to involve law firm leaders in its activities. These leaders are the real deal when it comes to the promotion and retention of women in law firms. I am grateful to them and I feel lucky that WILEF has the benefit of their wisdom.”

ABOUT WILEF

Founded in 1997 by Elizabeth Anne “Betiayn” Tursi, with the support of R.R. Donnelley and several successful senior women attorneys, and subsequently, of law firm and corporate sponsors, WILEF is dedicated to assisting women in law to assume leadership roles within the NLJ 250 and Fortune 1000 legal departments and within their respective communities. WILEF presents cutting edge programming that provides an educational and networking forum for women in law.

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