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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seattle Firm Honored with AT&T Legal Department Diversity Award

The Seattle law firm of Stokes Lawrence, P.S. was recently honored as a winner of the first annual AT&T Legal Department Diversity Award. The award was open to all U.S. law firms who represent AT&T. This is the inaugural year of the award, which the AT&T Legal Department created to recognize law firms for their efforts to increase diversity and inclusion within their firms and in the legal profession generally. Stokes Lawrence won in the small firm category and was the only firm from the Northwest to be honored.

Kelly Twiss Noonan, managing shareholder of Stokes Lawrence, and Shelley Hall, a shareholder and member of the firm's diversity committee, accepted the award from AT&T General Counsel Wayne Watts on behalf of the firm at AT&T's Legal Conference in Dallas Texas, which was attended by over 400 domestic and international AT&T attorneys, on March 9, 2011.

In its award program, AT&T describes Stokes Lawrence:

“Stokes Lawrence, based out of Seattle, proves that being a relatively small firm is no obstacle to embracing diversity and inclusion as a key operating principle.

A woman has been the firm's managing shareholder for nearly a decade, and today, 46 percent of the firm's 39 attorneys and 46 percent of its 24 shareholders are women. Stokes Lawrence has also recognized the value of attracting people of color and LGBT attorneys and staff: 16 percent of attorneys and 12.5 percent of shareholders are members of ethnic minorities or LGBT. Stokes Lawrence's success in attracting LGBT attorneys has been strengthened by industry-leading benefits for domestic partners. But supporting diversity and inclusion is not just about staffing. Stokes Lawrence has also worked to encourage more minorities to consider the law as a profession. These outreach efforts include a diversity scholarship program to provide financial assistance and

mentoring to diverse students, and participation in a local mentoring program aimed at high school students of color.”

Stokes Lawrence was the 2009 winner of the Achievements in Diversity Award from the Puget Sound Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators. In 2010, a Stokes Lawrence attorney, Aneelah Afzali, received the Washington State Bar Association’s highest honor for diversity, the Excellence in Diversity Award. In the 2009-10 Law Firm Diversity Report, a survey conducted by a coalition of Washington Minority Bar Associations, Stokes Lawrence ranked eighth overall among the 50 largest law firms in Washington State for demographics and efforts related to diverse attorneys.

More information about Stokes Lawrence, a business firm with offices in Seattle and Yakima, can be found at www.stokeslaw.com.



From left to right: Shelley Hall, Kelly Twiss Noonan and Wayne Watts.

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