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CONNER & WINTERS NAMES SIX NEW PARTNERS

TULSA, Okla. – (January 2012) Conner & Winters, LLP has named six attorneys as partners at the firm. The new partners are: Jason B. Coutant, Allison McGrath Gardner, Kerri E. Kobbeman, Paige N. Shelton, Terral J. Smith and Jeanette C. Timmons.

Jason Coutant practices in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, securities regulation, and banking and finance. He has assisted companies ranging from privately held businesses to development-stage bulletin board corporations to Fortune 500 companies with a variety of matters, including business formation and planning, public and private offerings of securities, SEC compliance and acquisitions and dispositions. Coutant earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree from Oklahoma State University in 2002 graduating magna cum laude. He earned his Juris Doctor degree with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 2005.

Allison McGrath Gardner practices in the areas of Tax Exempt Organizations, Employee Benefits, and Trusts & Estates. In the area of Tax Exempt Organizations, Gardner has represented a variety of tax exempt organizations, including private foundations, publicly supported organizations, churches, community foundations, support organizations, museums, professional associations, and social welfare organizations. Her experience consists of forming tax exempt organizations, obtaining tax exempt status, and advising on issues relating to maintaining tax exempt status and the unrelated business taxable income. In the area of Employee Benefits, her experience includes assisting businesses, churches, tax exempt organizations, and governmental entities in preparing and maintaining qualified retirement plans, tax deferred annuity plans, health and welfare plans, deferred compensation plans, and summary plan descriptions. Gardner received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia and her Juris Doctor degree with distinction from the University of Oklahoma School of Law.

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Kerri Kobbeman works primarily in the litigation, labor and employment, and corporate practice groups. Kobbeman has been engaged in a broad range of labor and employment matters, including the defense of wrongful discharge and discrimination actions as well the enforcement of contractual covenants. She has also assisted clients with contract drafting and negotiation. In her litigation practice, Kobbeman has experience working in products liability litigation, commercial litigation, and federal and state energy regulatory matters. She also has experience in corporate and securities, and has assisted clients with mergers and acquisitions, tender offers, and general corporate governance. Kobbeman received her Bachelor of Science degree from McPherson College and her Juris Doctor degree with honors from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Paige N. Shelton practices in the areas of commercial litigation, residential and commercial construction, products liability, insurance, and labor and employment. Shelton has assisted clients in a variety of industries, including construction, health care, banking, manufacturing, and telecommunications. Her experience includes trial practice in both state and federal courts on matters including claims for negligence, products liability, wrongful death, breach of contract, breach of warranty, and fraud. Shelton earned her Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in mathematics and economics from Vanderbilt University in 1997. She received her Juris Doctor degree with highest honors from The University of Tulsa College of Law in 2004 where she served as the Managing Editor Tulsa Law Review. Shelton is a member of Leadership Tulsa Class 42, the Junior League of Tulsa, Tulsa's Young Professionals (TYPros), and St. John's Episcopal Church. She was named to *The Journal Record's* 2008 class of Achievers Under 40 and was named by Oklahoma Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star" in 2010 and 2011.

Terral J. Smith's practice focuses on employee benefits and employment law. He has extensive experience with plan design and compliance involving pensions, health and welfare benefit plans, apprenticeship training plans, vacation plans, multi-employer plans, litigation and advice, employee benefits arbitrations, and federal collections. Smith frequently advises fiduciaries regarding mergers, spin-offs, and acquisitions of employee benefit plans. He also counsels clients regarding compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) issues, Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDRO's) and Qualified Medical Child Support Orders (QMCSO), and Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) and Pension Protection Act (PPA) issues. Smith has

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successfully handled many pension disputes. Smith has presented legal lectures and articles on QDRO processing and compliance and has written materials for the Joint Committee on Employee Benefits' Annual ERISA Basics and Litigation National Institutes on Enforcement of Employer Contribution Obligations under ERISA. Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington University in 1992 and a Juris Doctor degree from St. Louis University of Law in 1995.

Jeanette C. Timmons practices corporate and securities law for a wide variety of both public and private companies. During the course of her career, she has been involved in all aspects of corporate finance and securities law, with a particular focus on representation of public and private companies in capital formation activities, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and securities regulation. Her practice also includes banking law, particularly as it relates to bank formations and acquisitions and bank holding company regulation, as well as broker-dealer and investment advisor compliance matters. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Law, Timmons has served as securities counsel to NYSE, AMEX and Nasdaq-listed public companies across a variety of industries, including banking and financial services, energy, franchising and retail. Her representation of private companies has included companies in banking, technology, food services, health care and investment management. Timmons has served as Chairperson of the Business and Corporate Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association and is listed in Oklahoma Super Lawyers in the Securities and Corporate Finance, Business/Corporate, and Banking categories.

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About Conner & Winters, LLP. Founded in 1933, Conner & Winters, LLP has become one of the largest and most diverse law firms in the South Central Region of the United States. The Firm serves a broad range of clients in local, state, regional, national, and international arenas. Its clients include businesses of all sizes and types-locally-owned companies to multi-national corporations, individuals, estates and trusts, municipalities and other public-sector organizations, institutions, and charitable foundations. Conner & Winters, LLP is a full-service firm with over 100 attorneys successfully representing numerous areas of practice. For more information, go to www.cwlaw.com.