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ATHENS LAW FIRM ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE

Athens, GA (June 23, 2008)--Cook, Noell, Tolley, Bates & Michael LLP, a premiere small law firm specializing in high-stakes litigation and complex cases, has changed its name to COOK NOELL TOLLEY & BATES LLP, it was announced today by Managing Partner J. Vincent Cook.

Cook, who founded the Athens-based firm in 1964, says the name change resulted from partner M. Kim Michael's decision to leave the firm. Michael, who has been a partner for 15 years, plans to open a solo practice in Oconee County, Cook explained.

"Kim Michael has served our firm with distinction for more than two decades," Cook said. "We wish her all the best in her new practice."

Michael's departure brought about more than a name change, according to Cook. It also created opportunities within the firm for two younger legal talents: Associate R. Christopher Irwin III has advanced to partner and Jay W. Cook has been hired as an associate.

Irwin, who joined the firm in 2000, handles cases involving medical malpractice, automobile collisions, criminal defense, and governmental and civil rights liability, among other litigation. He is admitted to practice in the state trial and appeals courts throughout Georgia and in the federal trial and appeals courts in the state's middle and northern region.

An Atlanta native, Irwin attended The Westminster Schools and earned his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. He received his Juris Doctor

degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2000. In addition to the State Bar of Georgia, Irwin belongs to the Western Circuit Bar Association, the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association and the American Bar Association.

Jay W. Cook, the son of J. Vincent Cook, grew up in Athens and earned his bachelor's and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Georgia. He was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia and joined the firm in 2006. His primary area of practice is commercial and residential real estate closings and litigation.

“We’ve changed our name, but not our stripes,” J. Vincent Cook asserted. “Our firm continues to provide the highest quality legal representation and services to clients throughout Georgia.”

In addition to Cook and Irwin, other partners in the firm are John S. Noell Jr., Edward D. Tolley and Robert Bates. Ron Houser, an associate specializing in appellate litigation, is the firm’s seventh attorney.

COOK NOELL TOLLEY & BATES LLP concentrates its practice in the areas of appellate litigation, civil litigation, plaintiffs’ litigation, medical malpractice, criminal defense, business litigation, divorce and family law, estate planning, and commercial and residential real estate.