

Media Contact:  
Leslie Valenza  
(202) 973-1320  
lvalenza@levick.com

**For Immediate Release**

**Banner & Witcoff Shatters Design Patent Procurement Record**

*Leading Intellectual Property Firm Issues over 500 Design Patents for 2006*

(Washington, DC – November 16, 2006) – Banner & Witcoff Ltd., a leading intellectual property firm that is dedicated to the procurement, enforcement and litigation of intellectual property rights throughout the world, broke the design patent procurement record with its 500<sup>th</sup> patent issued this week as the firm continues to exceed its own record numbers. The 500<sup>th</sup> patent milestone supplants the previous record for the highest number of design patents procured by a firm in a calendar year, set in 2004 by Banner & Witcoff with 292 design patents.

“We are delighted to have reached and surpassed this benchmark in design patent procurement,” said Robert Katz, partner of the firm’s Washington, D.C. office. “It goes without saying that a great debt of gratitude is owed to our clients for entrusting their design work with us.”

The 500<sup>th</sup> patent, U.S. Pat. No. D531,789, was issued on behalf of Nike, one of the firm’s long-term clients.

“Banner & Witcoff is proud of this achievement and we look forward to continuing our service of leading innovators around the world,” concluded Katz. Having enjoyed continued growth and success throughout its 86 year history, Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. has become one of the largest law firms in the United States dedicated solely to the practice of intellectual property law. The firm works with Fortune 100 and 500 companies, midlevel companies, and technology-focused start-ups, to advance their interests in their various marketplaces.

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. is dedicated to excellence in the practice of intellectual property law, including patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, computer, franchise and unfair competition law. The firm has offices in Chicago, Washington, D.C., Boston, and Portland. For more information visit [www.bannerwitcoff.com](http://www.bannerwitcoff.com).

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