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Three Banner & Witcoff Attorneys Named To Key Positions Of Intellectual Property Law Section, American Bar Association

Chicago, IL - August 4, 2001. Three attorneys from the Intellectual Property law firm of Banner & Witcoff were named to key positions of the Intellectual Property Law Section of the American Bar Association (ABA).

At the August 4 annual meeting of the ABA, **Mark T. Banner** became Chair-Elect, **Joseph M. Potenza** became Secretary, and **Pamela I. Banner** became a Member of the Section Council.

With more than 18,000 members, the Section is the largest intellectual property law organization in the United States. According to the ABA, intellectual property law has undergone more changes in the last few years than at any time in its history. The United States Patent and Trademark Office granted over 176,000 patents last year.

Says Mark Banner, who most recently served as Section Vice-Chair, "This is an honor and I am proud to serve with other lawyers who are volunteering their time to advance patent, trademark and copyright law. The ABA's Section of IP Law is an important part of the ABA, and its members help create law and policy that foster creativity, innovation, and commerce." Added Banner, "There are numerous IP laws enacted by Congress that were first initiated and adopted by the IP law section of the American Bar Association." Mark Banner is an attorney at the Chicago office of Banner & Witcoff.

Joe Potenza, who currently serves as a Co-Chair of the Summer IPL Conference Committee and is past Division Chair and a past Chair of the ABA Science and Technology Law Section, notes that in the earlier part of his career, when he clerked for Chief Judge Harry Phillips, he was told by the judge that "you have to give back to the practice - it is important to contribute your time." Potenza has been involved ever since. Potenza is an attorney at the Washington, D.C. office of Banner & Witcoff.

Pamela Banner notes that one of the most significant contributions she wants to make is in her current position as liaison to the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession. Ms. Banner is an attorney at the Washington, D.C. office of Banner & Witcoff.

The firm has a long tradition of involvement with the ABA. Donald W. Banner chaired the Intellectual Property Law Section during President Lyndon Johnson's administration. Edward McKie, a shareholder with the firm, has also chaired the section. Several other Banner & Witcoff attorneys are also involved with the ABA.

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Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. is dedicated to excellence in the specialized practice of intellectual property law, including patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, computer, franchise and unfair competition law. The firm actively engages in the procurement, enforcement and litigation of intellectual property rights throughout the world, including all federal and state agencies, and the distribution of such rights through licensing and franchising. The firm has 80+ attorneys and agents in its Chicago, Washington, D.C., Boston and Portland, OR offices.