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**WILLKIE ADDS BANK REGULATORY/TRANSACTIONAL PRACTICE WITH
DAVID KATZ AND MICHAEL PETRONIO**

New York, NY (August 5, 2010) --- Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP today announced that David S. Katz and Michael C. Petronio have joined Willkie's Corporate and Financial Services Department, where they will provide comprehensive bank regulatory and transactional counsel to clients, with an additional focus on transactions involving the acquisition, financing or securitization of performing and non-performing consumer assets. Mr. Katz joins Willkie as a partner in the Washington, D.C. office and Mr. Petronio as of counsel in New York. Both were formerly with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP.

Willkie Co-Chairman Steven Gartner said, "We are delighted to welcome David and Michael to the firm, especially in light of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and other recently enacted financial reform measures, which will have a material effect on many of our clients. With this addition, Willkie strengthens its expertise to help our clients navigate both bank regulatory requirements and many of the additional regulatory burdens imposed on capital markets participants by the new law and anticipated regulations."

Barry Barbash, Chairman of Willkie's D.C. office Management Committee commented, "David's joining our D.C. office is in tune with our selective expansion to service companies in highly regulated industries that require comprehensive transactional and regulatory advice."

Mr. Katz has extensive bank and bank holding company transactional and regulatory experience, including acquisitions and divestitures of banks and subsidiaries, investments in financial institutions and holding companies, government-assisted acquisitions of failed banks, development of new products and the formation of de novo banks. He also represents clients before the various bank regulatory agencies and the SEC. Mr. Katz represents financial institutions, ranging from banks and thrifts to investment banks and private equity and hedge funds. For example, he represented Bond Street Holdings LLC in connection with its raising capital for a “blind pool” to acquire failed banks, its receipt of the first national bank “shelf charter” approved by the OCC and its acquisition of three failed banks in FDIC-assisted acquisitions. He has also represented the FDIC in connection with a number of complex asset and note sale transactions. He also has a significant practice in the acquisition, sale and financing of portfolios of consumer and other financial assets and has substantial expertise in the areas of debt capital markets, securitization and asset-based lending.

Mr. Petronio offers comprehensive transactional representation in matters related to securitization, as well as the acquisition, sale and financing of portfolios of consumer and commercial financial assets. Most recently, Mr. Petronio’s practice has focused on the acquisition and sale of distressed consumer and commercial mortgage assets (including transactions related to the divestiture of banks and failed bank assets), as well as the securitization of esoteric financial assets, such as life settlement receivables, structured settlements and tax liens. Mr. Petronio also regularly represents investors, issuers, underwriters, sellers, servicers and other transaction parties in structured finance transactions, principal finance transactions, ABS-related mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate and commercial matters.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP is an international law firm of approximately 650 attorneys with offices in New York, Washington, Paris, London, Milan, Rome, Frankfurt and Brussels. The firm is headquartered in New York City at 787 Seventh Avenue. Tel: 212.728.8000.