

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Contact: Antoinette C. McGovern
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Tel: (212) 728-8404
Email: amcgovern@willkie.com***

**LEADING ENERGY FINANCE LAWYER MICHAEL E. NIEBRUEGGE
JOINS WILLKIE'S HOUSTON OFFICE**

New York, NY (February 4, 2015) --- Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP today announced that Michael E. Niebruegge has joined the firm as a partner in its recently launched Houston, Texas office.

Mr. Niebruegge is recognized as one of the leading finance lawyers in the energy industry. He has represented global financial institutions, hedge funds and borrowers in lending transactions to oil and gas companies, refiners, midstream businesses, oil field service providers and other energy businesses for more than 35 years. Mr. Niebruegge's move to Willkie furthers the firm's strategy to combine the strengths of its New York-based private equity, M&A and finance platform with leading attorneys specializing in energy transactions.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mike to Willkie," said Bruce Herzog, Willkie's partner in charge of the Houston office. "He's the perfect fit to lead our energy finance practice. Not only is he widely viewed as one of the most respected, experienced and skilled energy finance lawyers in Houston, Mike embodies the attributes Willkie values most in its lawyers – an unwavering commitment to serving his longstanding clients, an insistence on excellence in his work, and a civil and commercial approach to complex projects."

“I am very excited to be joining Willkie’s Houston office and look forward to helping the firm build its presence in the world’s energy capital,” said Mr. Niebruegge.

Chambers USA (2014) ranks Mr. Niebruegge in Band 1 for Banking & Finance (Texas). He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his law degree from Cornell Law School. He has practiced in Houston for more than 35 years.

Willkie’s international network provides comprehensive legal services to clients. The firm represents a number of U.S. and international companies in the energy sector in a variety of matters including mergers and acquisitions, capital markets transactions and compliance issues. Willkie also actively represents more than 75 U.S. and international private equity sponsors, U.S. and foreign fund investors and a significant number of portfolio companies and management teams across a broad range of industries, including energy.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP is an international law firm of over 600 attorneys with offices in New York, Washington, Houston, Paris, London, Frankfurt, Brussels, Milan and Rome. The firm is headquartered in New York City at 787 Seventh Avenue. Tel: 212.728.8000.