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Partner John (Jay) R. Gowell, Jr. Recognized by the Rhode Island Philharmonic for Leadership Award

Boston, MA – Burns & Levinson LLP, a leading law firm with offices in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is pleased to announce that Partner **John (Jay) R. Gowell, Jr.** is a recipient of the **8th Annual John Hazen White, Sr. Leadership Award**. Selection is based on outstanding dedication and support of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School as well as dedication to the arts and cultural health of Rhode Island. The award is a tribute to the late John Hazen White, Sr. who was well known for his philanthropy.

Mr. Gowell was chosen for this award in recognition of his unwavering dedication to the Philharmonic since he joined the Board in 1996. Over the past thirteen years, Jay has served as President, Chair of the Artistic Advisory, Strategic Planning and Building Committees, doubled the Philharmonic's Annual Fund giving goals and secured a 5-year sponsorship with a major financial services company which was instrumental in establishing the Philharmonic's very successful "Rush Hour" concert series. Jay also guided the Philharmonic through its merger with The Music School in 2000, helping to establish what is the largest combined professional orchestra and community music school in the United States. As Chair of the Building Committee, he led the team in the site selection, negotiation, acquisition, design and construction of the Philharmonic's new, state of the art Carter Center for Music Education in East Providence, Rhode Island. The Center opened on time and on budget in September 2008, and is a first of its kind community music school in Rhode Island.

"Throughout his tenure, Jay brought his skills and energy to bear when tackling each project he took on. Without these fundamental changes and Jay's progressive thinking, Rhode Islanders would not be able to access affordable, accessible, top quality live symphonic music and community-based music education offerings without leaving their state. We are indebted to Jay for helping make our dreams for a community engaged performing arts and education organization possible," said David Beauchesne, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

"Jay has given tirelessly to the Philharmonic over the past years. He is a most worthy recipient and this honor is well earned and deserved," said David P. Rosenblatt, Managing Partner, Burns & Levinson LLP.

In recognition of his hard work and dedication in promoting the arts in Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Philharmonic will honor Mr. Gowell during the 2009 **John Hazen White, Sr. Leadership Awards Luncheon** on May 1, 2009.

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Mr. Gowell concentrates his law practice in the areas of real estate, finance, banking and corporate law, and public law and finance, and also provides legal advice to many not-for-profit and civic organizations. He has extensive experience in all aspects of real estate development and financing, commercial lending and finance, and commercial and real estate loan workouts. He also has considerable experience in purchases and sales of companies, syndications, venture capital transactions, securities matters and general corporate law.

Mr. Gowell received his J.D. from University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review, and his B.A. from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

About Burns & Levinson LLP

Burns & Levinson, with over 120 attorneys in four offices in New England, is a full-service Boston-based law firm. The firm has grown steadily and strategically throughout the years and has become a premier law firm with regional, national and international clientele. The firm has expertise in corporate law, finance, venture capital, private equity, tax, bankruptcy, lending and leasing, real estate, business litigation, government investigations and white collar crime defense, intellectual property - including patent law, and a large private client group - including estate planning, probate and trust litigation, divorce and other family law issues. In addition, the firm has a wholly-owned subsidiary office in Montreal, Quebec, to service its Canadian clients. For more information, visit Burns & Levinson at www.burnslev.com.

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