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Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C. Hires New Associates

Birmingham, Ala. – Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C. is pleased to announce E. Bryan Nichols, Tres Cleveland and Lee Loftin Sheppard as its newest associates, according to Fournier J. (“Boots”) Gale, III, Managing Partner of the law firm.

E. Bryan Nichols is currently practicing in the firm’s Environmental and Toxic Torts practice area. Nichols received his Bachelor of Chemical Engineering *magna cum laude* from Auburn University in 1998 and then graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2003. While in law school, Nichols was a member of the John A. Campbell Moot Court Board and served as the Internet Editor for the *Alabama Law Review*. He is admitted to the Alabama State Bar and is licensed to practice before the United States District Courts for the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Alabama. Prior to attending law school, Nichols was a process engineer in hydroprocessing and distillation for the Chevron Products Company.

Tres Cleveland is an associate in the firm's General Litigation practice group. Cleveland graduated from the Mississippi State University in 2000, *summa cum laude*, with a degree in Business Administration. In 2003, Cleveland received his law degree from the University of Mississippi, *cum laude*, where he was awarded the Augustus Longstreet Scholarship. In addition, he served on the Moot Court Board while in law school. Cleveland is admitted to practice in all federal and state courts in Alabama and Mississippi. He belongs to the State Bars of Alabama and Mississippi and the American Bar Association.

Lee Loftin Sheppard is a member of the firm's Commercial Lending and Real Estate practice groups. Sheppard graduated from Auburn University in 1996 with a degree in International Business and received his law degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2002. While in law school, Sheppard served as Editor in Chief of the *Alabama Law Review*. He was also named as a Hugo

Black Scholar, was elected to the Order of the Coif and served as a research assistant to Professor Charles Gamble. Sheppard is author of "Rule 607 Subterfuge: Improper Impeachment of a Party's Own Witness in Alabama," 53 Ala. L. Rev. 1003 (Spring 2002). He is licensed to practice in both Alabama and Florida and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar, the Florida Bar and the Birmingham Bar Association.

Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C., was founded in 1984 and in its short but dynamic history has grown to over 140 attorneys, emerging as a leading law firm in Alabama as well as the Southeast. The Birmingham-based law firm of Maynard, Cooper & Gale offers a full array of legal services to a broad and diverse client base consisting of Fortune 500 companies as well as closely held companies, partnerships, professional associations, charities and individuals.

Maynard, Cooper & Gale is Alabama's only member of Lex Mundi, an international association of more than 140 widely recognized independent law firms, which by membership gives the firm access to the very best in local legal expertise throughout the world. The firm is also Alabama's only member of the Southern Law Network, a regional network of independent law firms. For more information, visit www.maynardcooper.com.

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