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Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C. Names New Shareholders

Birmingham, Ala. - Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C. is pleased to announce that four former associates, John David Collins, Edward M. "Ted" Holt, M. Lee Huffaker and Ashley E. Swink have been named shareholders of the firm. In addition, W. Clark Goodwin, formerly Of Counsel, has been named a shareholder. "All of these individuals have been outstanding members of our firm, and we are very pleased to have them join the shareholder ranks," said Mark L. Drew, Managing Partner of the firm.

John David Collins practices in the firm's ERISA and Group Insurance Litigation and Consumer and Commercial Finance Litigation practice groups. Collins' represents employers and insurers in employee benefit and insurance matters, including ERISA claims involving benefit claim disputes, fiduciary breach claims, discrimination under ERISA § 510, nondisclosure under ERISA § 104(b), and retiree health benefits. In addition to his ERISA litigation practice, Mr. Collins represents lenders and mortgage loan servicers in lawsuits involving, among other matters, escrow administration, fair lending laws, FCRA, RESPA, TILA, predatory lending, force-placed hazard insurance, and state consumer protection laws. He has handled cases in Georgia, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania, as well as in the state and federal courts in Alabama. Collins is a member of the American Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar Association and the Birmingham Bar Association.

Collins graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2000 where he was a member of the *Alabama Law Review*, a Hugo Black Scholar, elected to the Order of the Coif and a recipient of the Dean M. Leigh Harrison award. Collins also received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama in 1997. Prior to joining the firm, Collins served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edwin L. Nelson of the United States District Court of the Northern District of Alabama.

Edward M. "Ted" Holt practices in the firm's General Litigation and Insurance and Financial Services Litigation practice groups. He represents insurance companies, financial service companies, oil and gas production, exploration and transportation companies, healthcare management companies and hospitals in

a variety of fraud, contract, personal injury and commercial disputes. Mr. Holt has successfully defended individuals and corporations in State and Federal Courts in Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Tennessee. Holt is a member of the American Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar Association, the Mississippi State Bar Association, the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association and the Birmingham Bar Association.

Holt graduated *cum laude* from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2001. Prior to law school, he earned his Masters in Business Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1998 and his undergraduate degree from Rollins College in 1996.

M. Lee Huffaker practices in the firm's Intellectual Property and Technology and Complex Litigation practice groups. He focuses his practice on intellectual property litigation and other technology-related legal matters. He has extensive experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret and unfair competition litigation. In addition, he regularly counsels clients in the acquisition, licensing and protection of intellectual property rights. As a registered patent attorney with a degree in chemical engineering, Huffaker also prosecutes patent applications before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Huffaker is a member of the American Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar Association, the International Trademark Association, and the Birmingham Bar Association.

Huffaker graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2001, where he was Senior Editor of the *Alabama Law Review*, a Junior Editor of the *Law and Psychology Review*, elected to the Order of the Coif, and a recipient of the Dean M. Leigh Harrison Award. He received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in 1998.

Ashley E. Swink practices in the firm's Huntsville, AL office in the Labor and Employment and General Litigation practice groups. Her employment work includes assisting clients in drafting employment policies, procedures and handbooks and often works with employers on issues involving technology in the workplace. In addition, Swink regularly defends employers against charges filed with the EEOC and in litigation involving Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, age discrimination and retaliatory discharge. She has a particular interest in cases involving the intersection of business and employment litigation, such as trade secrets, covenants not to compete, and non-solicitation/non-disclosure agreements. Swink is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Inns of Court, the Alabama State Bar Association and the Huntsville-Madison County Bar

Association, and was recently selected to participate in the Alabama State Bar's statewide Leadership Forum.

Swink graduated from Emory University School of Law in 2001 where she was the Director-in-Chief of the Moot Court Society, was elected to the Order of the Barristers and was selected by the faculty to receive the International Trial Lawyers Award, given annually to a member of the graduating class showing the most promise in trial advocacy. She is originally from Wetumpka, Alabama and received her undergraduate degree from Auburn University in 1998.

W. Clark Goodwin practices in the firm's Mergers and Acquisitions, Securities Regulation and Corporate Finance, and Venture Capital and Private Equity Investment practice groups. He represents clients in a variety of complex business transactions, including negotiation and structuring of equity and debt investments for venture capital, private equity and mezzanine debt investment funds; registration, offer and sale of equity and debt securities; preparation of disclosure documents for private offerings and venture capital financings; merger transactions; stock and asset acquisitions and dispositions; and "going private," leveraged buyout and recapitalization transactions. He frequently lectures for various continuing legal education groups and seminars on such topics as choice of business entities in Alabama, basic corporate law in Alabama, negotiating and drafting acquisition agreements and securities regulation in Alabama. Goodwin is a member of the Alabama State Bar Association and the Birmingham Bar Association.

Goodwin graduated *summa cum laude* from Cumberland School of Law in 1979 where he was Articles Editor of the *Cumberland Law Review*, a member of the Jessup International Moot Court Team, and *Curia Honoris*. He received his undergraduate degree from Auburn University in 1976.

The Birmingham-based law firm of Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C., with over 170 attorneys, 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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