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**GREGORY BAER, FORMER SENIOR TREASURY OFFICIAL,
JOINS WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING**

March 18, 2002 (Washington, D.C.) -- Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is pleased to announce that Gregory Arthur Baer, a former Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, has joined the Firm as a partner, resident in the Washington, D.C., office. Mr. Baer's expertise in consumer banking and regulatory matters will further strengthen the Firm's existing, nationally recognized financial institutions practice.

While at the Treasury Department, Mr. Baer coordinated Treasury policy on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, led the development of Presidential initiatives on financial privacy and consumer protection, and was responsible for regulatory approval of new financial activities for banking organizations. He also focused on electronic commerce issues, including leading successful Treasury efforts to pass digital signature legislation (the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act), and testifying before Congress on computer security and Internet gambling issues. Mr. Baer was appointed by Secretary Summers to coordinate Treasury policy on cyber defense and he was the chief government architect in creation of FS/ISAC, LLC, a computer defense center whose membership includes over 40 of the nation's largest financial services companies.

Before arriving at the Treasury Department, Mr. Baer was Managing Senior Counsel at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, where he was engaged in a broad regulatory and legislative policy practice and directed special projects for the General Counsel.

Chris Lipsett, Chairman of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering's Financial Institutions Group, commented: "Greg is a tremendously accomplished lawyer with a wide range of experience and understanding of financial institutions regulatory policy and law. We are delighted to have him join us, and we are happy to be able to bring his skills and insights to our clients' work."

Mr. Baer received his J.D. in 1987 from Harvard Law School, where he was Managing Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1984. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and Maryland. In the year since leaving the Treasury Department in January 2001, Mr. Baer has co-authored a book on personal investing that is scheduled to be published by Broadway Books/Random House later this year.

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is an international law firm with offices in Washington, D.C., New York, Baltimore, Northern Virginia, London, Brussels, and Berlin. The firm has over 500 lawyers engaged in a broad practice spanning the full range of corporate matters, regulatory work, high-stakes litigation, cross-border transactions, and international arbitration matters.