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**LAURA WERTHEIMER
JOINS WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING**

Washington, October 14, 2003 – Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (“WCP”) today announced that Laura Wertheimer has joined the Firm as a partner in the Washington, D.C., office. Ms. Wertheimer will work with the Firm’s Securities and Litigation Sections, with a particular focus on serving clients who face challenges related to SEC disclosure and accounting practices.

"Laura is one of the most talented lawyers out there practicing in this complex area of the law," said WCP securities group leader William McLucas. "Her experience, wisdom, and judgment will be a tremendous addition to the Firm’s capacity to represent clients who face challenges relating to their professional obligations, and, more broadly, to represent clients in connection with their responsibilities under the Sarbanes Oxley Act. We are thrilled to have Laura join our firm."

Prior to joining WCP, Ms. Wertheimer was a partner with Shea & Gardner. Over the past 15 years, she has developed exceptional experience in issues related to the responsibilities, principles, and rules of conduct that apply to lawyers and to accounting firm practices. Her practice has included advising accounting firms, law firms, and other companies on issues of professional liability, auditor independence, licensure, and related matters, as well as defending several Big Five accounting firms before state ethics and grievance committees investigating claims of unauthorized practice of law.

In addition, Ms. Wertheimer developed and implemented litigation strategies in state and federal courts nationwide for clients facing potential exposure to multi-million dollar liabilities in high-profile, complex civil proceedings.

"Laura is a highly skilled litigator who has successfully represented clients in very difficult cases, and she will be a strong addition to our litigation practice," added Juanita Crowley, Co-Chair of the Firm’s litigation practice.

Ms. Wertheimer is a graduate of Yale University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, 1977) and Columbia University Law School (J.D., 1981). Prior to graduation from law school, she worked as a summer associate at WCP. She is a frequent speaker at conferences dealing with professional responsibility issues.

"Laura is a very talented lawyer who has demonstrated superb judgment and dedication in her work," commented WCP Chairman, William Perlstein. "We’re very pleased to have her join us."

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 more than 500 lawyers engaged in a broad practice spanning the full range of corporate matters, regulatory work, complex civil and criminal litigation, cross-border transactions, and international arbitration.

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