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**Nine Krokidas & Bluestein Attorneys Recognized as
"Massachusetts Super Lawyers" or "Rising Stars" of 2009**

Boston (January 2, 2010) – Krokidas & Bluestein LLP is pleased to announce that nine of the firm's attorneys have been named "Massachusetts Super Lawyers" or "Rising Stars" for 2009 by *Boston Magazine* in the special supplement in the November 2009 issue. Each lawyer included is selected by his or her peers throughout the state of Massachusetts as being outstanding in the profession. The selection process is extensive and includes polling lawyers across the state, conducting independent research, screening nominees, interviewing law firms, fact checking and a blue-ribbon panel review. The seven named Super Lawyers are: Richard Bluestein, Maria Krokidas, Paul Holtzman, Vincent Pisegna, Robert Griffin, Kathryn Cochrane Murphy and Samuel Nagler. The two "Rising Stars" are Jill Brenner Meixel and Sheryl Howard.

Richard Bluestein

Richard Bluestein leads the firm's litigation and labor and employment practices. An experienced litigator and negotiator who specializes in cases involving public policy, Bluestein previously served as associate director of Greater Boston Legal Services and as court-appointed general counsel to the receiver of the Boston Housing Authority. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the Boston Bar Association, B'nai B'rith Housing New England and Island Housing Trust. Bluestein is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Michigan Law School.

Maria Krokidas

Maria Krokidas is a founder of Krokidas & Bluestein and leads the firm's transactional group. She has over thirty-five years' experience representing for-profit, non-profit and public entities in real estate, finance and corporate matters. Krokidas previously served as a law clerk to the justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court and was an associate at another Boston firm. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Mount Holyoke College and a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School. In 2008, Maria was given the President's Heart of Gold Award from Advocates, Inc. She is also a recipient of the 2004 Lelia J. Robinson Award of the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts, a recipient of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus Abigail Adams Award, and a recipient of the "Health Care Heroes" award from the South End Community Health Center's Familia Unida event.

Paul Holtzman

Paul Holtzman's litigation practice is comprised of a mix of trial work, alternative dispute resolution and preventive advice to employers, all focused in the areas of employment law, sexual harassment and other civil rights. Among his public service activities, Holtzman served as Co-Chair of the Labor & Employment Section of the Boston Bar Association. He filed an amicus curiae brief in the landmark Goodridge vs. Department of Public Health case, where he argued on behalf of a coalition of national civil rights organizations. He also serves as an Advisor to the American Law Institute (ALI) on the inaugural Restatement of Employment Law. Holtzman is a 1983 magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College and a 1987 graduate of Yale Law School, where he served as a senior editor of the Yale Law Review. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable Pierre N. Leval in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He also practiced in Washington, D.C., at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Vincent Pisegna

Vincent Pisegna has developed a diverse civil litigation practice in state and federal courts and is the firm's senior trial attorney. Among his many public service activities, Pisegna founded and has served on the Board of Directors of The Kids Fund, Inc., a Massachusetts non-profit organization supporting pediatric patients at Boston Medical Center, serves on the Board of the Lake Morey Protective Association, was elected to his local school site-based council, and served as the Chair of his church finance committee. Pisegna is a 1976 summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of St. Lawrence University, a 1979 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and was a

law clerk to the Honorable Howard G. Munson of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Robert Griffin

Robert Griffin joined Krokidas & Bluestein in 1985. He concentrates his practice in the areas of health care, non-profit, administrative and corporate law. Griffin is an active community participant, serving on the boards of several non-profit and community institutions, including Marian Manor (for which he received the Magnificat Award in 2004), St. Patrick's Manor, Carmel Terrace and S Bank. He is a past member of the Quincy Medical Center, the St. Coletta and Cardinal Cushing Centers and Quincy Youth Baseball Board of Directors. Before joining Krokidas & Bluestein, Griffin held several positions in Massachusetts state government. His last position was as Chairman of the Massachusetts Rate Setting Commission. He has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for his work protecting the residents of troubled nursing facilities. He is a 1975 graduate of Trinity College. He received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Massachusetts in 1978, and a juris doctor degree from Suffolk Law School in 1983.

Kathryn Cochrane Murphy

Kathryn Cochrane Murphy has extensive experience in every aspect of commercial real estate transactions. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, a member and former steering committee member of New England Women in Real Estate (NEWIRE) and a member of the Urban Land Institute. She is a Trustee of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the YWCA Boston and an Honorary Trustee of the Boston Children's Museum. She has served as a panelist on the ALI/ABA Modern Real Estate Transactions and Commercial Leasing courses and has contributed to the ABA Mortgage Foreclosure book and the State-by-State Guide to Commercial Real Estate Leases. She graduated from Yale College, cum laude, and Boston College Law School, magna cum laude.

Samuel Nagler

Samuel Nagler joined Krokidas & Bluestein in 1981 and has been a partner in the firm's transactional group since 1990. Nagler represents for-profit, non-profit and public clients in the purchase and sale, leasing and financing of commercial real estate. Much of his practice also involves the representation of business clients in the areas of formation, business planning and business acquisitions and sales. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a law clerk to the Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court. He is a 1974 magna cum laude graduate of the State University of New York at Albany and a 1980 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law.

Jill Brenner Meixel

Jill Brenner Meixel practices in the firm's litigation group with a focus on business, real estate and employment matters. Meixel brings extensive experience in state and federal court litigation involving complex business, employment and other issues. For three consecutive years – from 2005 to 2007 – *Boston Magazine* selected Meixel as a Massachusetts Super Lawyer Rising Star. Before joining Krokidas & Bluestein, Meixel was a litigation associate at Donnelly, Conroy & Gelhaar, LLP in Boston. She is a member of the Women's Bar Association and the Boston Bar Association. Meixel resides in Roslindale, Massachusetts. Meixel received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law.

Sheryl Howard

Sheryl Howard represents commercial, non-profit and public clients in a variety of transactions, with a concentration in real estate and tax matters. Among her many community service activities, Sheryl serves as the treasurer of VISIONS, Inc., a non-profit organization with offices in Roxbury, Massachusetts and Rocky Mount, North Carolina. She also serves on Fenway Community Health's Board of Visitors. Sheryl is a former Public Interest Leadership Program fellow of the Boston Bar Association, and she was one of a group of attorneys awarded the Robert B. Fraser Award for Pro Bono Excellence for 2005 by the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts for the group's representation of Fort Point Cultural Coalition in connection with the development of Midway Studios. She has been named one of the Massachusetts Rising Stars by *Boston Magazine* for the years 2005-2008. Prior to joining the firm, Sheryl was an associate at Foley Hoag, LLP in Boston. She is a 1997 graduate of Smith College and a 2001 cum laude graduate of Cornell Law School.

About Krokidas & Bluestein LLP

Krokidas & Bluestein LLP provides legal services in the areas of real estate development, management and finance, public and non-profit general corporate law, social services, health and education law, public and private civil litigation, and labor and employment law. The firm is staffed by 21 attorneys, 13 of whom are women, and is certified by the State Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance (SOMWBA) as a woman-owned business enterprise.

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