

For Immediate Release
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Baker Donelson Expands China Practice

Law Firm Will Assist Alabama in Creating China Trade and Investment Opportunities

October 17, 2007 - Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC will expand its China practice through a new agreement with the Alabama Development Office (ADO) to help establish economic development opportunities in China and develop a long-term trade and business development strategy which will bring more jobs and international business to the state. The new arrangement with the ADO reinforces Baker Donelson's firmwide efforts to develop trade relationships and business development opportunities with China.

"This is a unique opportunity to highlight Alabama and the Southeastern U.S. to the Chinese leadership and the new, fast-growing Chinese business community," said Joan McEntee, Washington, DC-based chair of Baker Donelson's International Practice. "The business potential for both U.S. and Chinese entities are boundless. Baker Donelson's international group has been a well-regarded presence in China for many years, and we are excited about making this a win-win result for both sides."

In addition, the Firm's Jackson, MS office is working with the Mississippi Development Authority to attract Chinese investment and develop strategic relationships with the Chinese. Most recently, the Firm advised a Chinese delegation seeking a possible site location for a manufacturing facility in Mississippi.

In 2006, Chinese customers bought nearly \$2 billion in Tennessee goods and services, ranking China as Tennessee's third-largest market, behind Canada and Mexico. The country now ranks sixth among destinations for Alabama exporters, with \$662.2 million in shipments 2006, while Taiwan ranks 14th, with \$202.3 million. Exports from Louisiana (where Baker Donelson has three offices) to China totaled \$2.2 billion in 2006. Georgia's exports to China totaled over \$1 billion in 2006, and the country is Mississippi's fourth-largest export destination, at just over \$267 million.

Since opening its representative office in China in 2001, Baker Donelson has represented businesses throughout all of China's provinces, providing counseling in government affairs, strategic planning for market entry, and assistance in direct investment and joint ventures. The Firm maintains a representative office in Beijing and affiliates with other offices in Beijing and Shanghai. It also maintains strong government and commercial relationships in a number of coastal and inland provinces of China. Last year the Firm's Beijing representative office signed an agreement with China's National Development and Reform Commission to work together to provide advice and assistance to Chinese and foreign companies interested in investing and doing business in China and abroad.

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Baker Donelson's China Practice Group is one of the most accomplished China trade, investment and overall business development consulting groups in the United States. The Firm's China practice, which includes both American and Chinese nationals with extensive business backgrounds, has developed strong, highly effective working relationships and alliances with a variety of other well respected advisors, consultants, and organizations headquartered in China.

"Business opportunities with Chinese companies are at an unprecedented level," says McEntee, "and we are working hard to maximize those opportunities."

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC is one of the 100 largest law firms in the country. Through strategic acquisitions and mergers over the past century, the Firm has grown to include more than 530 attorneys, and public policy and international advisors. Baker Donelson represents clients across the U.S. and abroad from offices in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Washington, D.C., and a representative office in Beijing, China.

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