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John S. Kirk, of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, Receives “The Spirit of the ALA Award”

Philadelphia, PA (June 3, 2011) – In a surprise presentation, John S. Kirk, Director of Administration of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox (MGKF) headquartered in Bala Cynwyd, PA, was given the highest honor of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) – “The Spirit of the ALA Award.” Presented at their annual meeting in Orlando, Florida on Tuesday, May 24, the Award recognizes individuals for special and unique achievement.

The ALA’s Immediate Past President Rita Alli explains that this is not an annual award, it is only given to individuals most deserving. It was created and first presented by the ALA Board of Directors in 1998. She said, “The Award is an honor that is given on occasions as rare as the individuals who receive them.” Robert D. Fox, Managing Partner of MGKF, added, “This is a real tribute to John. We are so fortunate he works with us and he has been a key contributor to our success.”

The traits and qualities that The Spirit of ALA Award recognizes include ... “leadership, commitment, tenacity and dedication.” The Board created this Award as the Association’s highest honor, and it is bestowed only on those whose leadership and contributions are extraordinary.

John Kirk joined ALA 24 years ago and has held positions with the Association for 23 of those years. Fewer than a dozen of the nearly 10,000 ALA members could make such a claim. He has been a speaker at Annual Conferences, regional meetings, webinars, the Chapter Leadership Institute, and other ALA programs. He also served on the ALA Board of Directors as well as the President of the local ALA chapter where he still remains active. Other committee positions include seven years on the Annual Conference Committee, one of them as Chair; two years on the Certification Task Force and seven years on the Certification Committee; two years on the Association Nominating Committee; and five years on the Business Partner Relations Committee—serving as Chair for the past two years. He has also been awarded ALA's Outstanding Association Volunteer Award twice – a distinction in and of itself.

Kirk is a Certified Legal Manager and has worked in the legal industry for over 25 years, first in litigation support consulting, and later in law firm management and administration. He is a fellow in the College of Law Practice Management and currently serves on the Education Committee for the Greater Philadelphia Green Business Program. He has lectured and written on issues of sustainability and green office practices nationally. He also spearheaded the development and implementation of the firm's sustainable business practices as part of the EPA's Law Office Climate Challenge pilot program.

MGKF concentrates its practice in environmental, energy, and land use law and litigation. It represents clients ranging from Fortune 100 corporations to small, privately held enterprises, both in the Mid-Atlantic region and on a national basis. MGKF was honored to be the top-rated law firm in the Top Workplaces 2011 survey by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Daily News and Philly.com. Offices are located at 401 City Avenue, Suite 500, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania and 535 Route 38, Suite 145A, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. For additional information, visit www.mgkflaw.com or call 484-430-5700 or 856-317-1299.

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