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***LA Ethics 1* Supports Special Legislative Session on Governmental Ethics**

Baton Rouge, LA (February 1, 2008) – *LA Ethics 1*, the statewide coalition of more than 50 business and civic organizations pushing for governmental ethics reform in Louisiana, expressed its support of the special legislative session announced today by Governor Jindal to transform Louisiana into a national model for governmental ethics laws and enforcement. The results of the special session scheduled for February 10 through February 29 could dramatically improve the negative brand image that has long been associated with the state. The coalition also announced that it will convene next week to review the Governor's call issued this afternoon.

Despite meaningful progress in recent years, Louisiana has a long and colorful history of government corruption, which has left our state with a brand associated with a lack of integrity and transparency in government. Business executives nationwide suggest that this brand image is a significant obstacle to Louisiana's economic development efforts.

Dramatic improvements to governmental laws and enforcement would position Louisiana as a state known for honest, transparent, and accountable government. Success with broad-based governmental ethics reform would also enable communities across the state to vigorously counter negative historical assumptions held by some business prospects.

The coalition, which successfully passed three ethics reform bills in last year's regular session, is enthusiastic about the upcoming special session based on the scope of the Governor's call. *LA Ethics 1* is hopeful about the possibility of accomplishing most, if not all, of its priorities in only its second year of existence.

About *LA Ethics 1*:

LA Ethics 1 is a coalition of prominent Louisiana business and civic organizations that support a reform agenda designed to position our state as a national model for governmental ethics laws and enforcement. For additional information on this effort and the latest listing of organizations comprising ***LA Ethics 1***, please visit www.LAethics1.com.