12800 Center Court Drive Cerritos, California 90703

(562) 653-3200 Phone (562) 653-3333 www.aalrr.com

Fax

News Release

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Contact: Darrell Uran duran@aalrr.com

(562) 653-3565

Former Federal Prosecutor Joins

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, Will Lead White Collar and Regulatory Defense and Investigations Team

Cerritos, Calif. —Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) announced today that veteran trial lawyer, Joseph N. Akrotirianakis, has joined the firm as a partner in its Cerritos and Pasadena offices. Akrotirianakis, who has litigated successful outcomes in more than 25 trials and arbitrations, will join the firm's Commercial and Complex Litigation Practice Group and will lead its White Collar and Regulatory Defense and Investigations team.

Akrotirianakis brings extensive trial experience, both as a private sector business trial lawyer and as a former Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California. As a commercial litigator, Akrotirianakis has represented entities and individuals in business disputes, regulatory enforcement actions, white collar criminal cases, and internal investigations. As a prosecutor, he investigated and prosecuted complex fraud and financial crimes, political and law enforcement corruption, racketeering, and various other violations of federal law; taught trial advocacy to federal prosecutors from across the United States and its territories; and received awards and commendations from the United States Attorney General and the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Managing Partner James C. Romo commented that an increase in cases involving complex trials, regulatory enforcement actions, and internal investigations make the addition of Akrotirianakis to the firm very timely. "Joe is widely considered one of the top litigators in the region. His combination of extensive public service and private sector experience, coupled with his track record of success, make Joe a terrific addition to our firm and a great resource for our clients." says Romo.

Akrotirianakis's clients have included the nation's largest managed health care organization, the world's leading satellite television provider, the Los Angeles Mayor, City Council members, police commissioners, and chiefs of police, among others.

"Joe complements our existing capabilities in the litigation arena nicely," says James H. Palmer, chair of the firm's Commercial and Complex Litigation Practice Group and general counsel. "With his broad range of experience and successful track record, he will be a real asset to our clients."

Prior to his government service, Akrotirianakis clerked for renowned United States Court of Appeals Judge Harry Pregerson, and practiced for six successful years as a business trial lawyer in the Los Angeles office of Quinn Emanuel, an international litigation firm.

Akrotirianakis joins AALRR from Los Angeles litigation boutique Hobart Linzer LLP. He earned his undergraduate degree from Whittier College and his law degree from Loyola Law School, where he graduated second in his class.

About Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

AALRR is a full service California law firm with offices in Cerritos, Fresno, Irvine, Pasadena, Pleasanton, Riverside, Sacramento and San Diego. Its attorneys specialize in employment and labor, education, corporate, real estate, and construction and commercial and complex litigation. The firm is counsel to more than 400 school districts and public and private universities. Its diverse teams bring a seasoned perspective to California's complex legal landscape for both private and public entities. For further information, visit our website at www.aalrr.com or sign up for key updates at our blogs www.aalrreducationlaw.com or www.aalrremploymentlaw.com.

AALRR was recently ranked first in the state by California Lawyer Magazine for its commitment to <u>diversity</u> and received the 2013 ABC Diversity Excellence Award. It is the <u>39th largest</u> firm in the state of California and is ranked among "Best Law Firms" by U.S. News & World Report, <u>Chambers & Partners</u>, and the <u>Los Angeles</u>, <u>Orange County</u> and <u>San Diego</u> Business Journals.