

**Weil Gotshal Boosts Hedge Fund and Private Equity Practices with Joseph J. Basile
Boston addition is part of firm's global expansion strategy**

Boston, May 1, 2008 -- Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP announced today that Joseph J. Basile will join the firm as a corporate partner with its private equity and hedge fund practice groups in Boston.

With more than 25 years' experience as a corporate, securities and finance lawyer, Basile brings his diverse transactional expertise to Weil Gotshal's dominant private equity practice. Basile was formerly a partner with Bingham McCutchen LLP where he represented hedge funds, private equity funds and strategic investors in complex domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances, and also advised on financial restructuring issues.

"Joe's diverse experience will further strengthen our hedge fund and private equity expertise and add significant depth in cross-border transactions," said chairman Stephen Dannhauser.

"We are confident that Joe will be an important driver of the future growth and success of our Boston office and hedge fund business." said Jim Westra, co-head of the Global Private Equity practice. "His unique skill set will broaden our abilities to address a full range of fund clients' needs."

Basile holds a B.A. from Stonehill College and earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School. He has taught corporate and commercial law courses as both a full-time and adjunct professor at Western New England College School of Law.

Basile's arrival is a major component of Weil Gotshal's recent global expansion that includes the addition of several other transactional partners in China. Kevin Ban and Anthony Wang, both focused on cross-border private equity and M&A transactions, have been elected to partner in the firm's Shanghai office. In London, Weil Gotshal has also added restructuring expert Tony Horspool, and Stuart Hills, a banking and finance specialist, to its business finance & restructuring practice, ranked #1 by Chambers Global 2008.

With over 200 private equity and hedge fund attorneys worldwide, Weil Gotshal provides services across the full range of fund formation, deal execution and leveraged transactions. The dedicated hedge fund transactional group represents funds in connection with control and non-control investments in portfolio companies and structured equity investments, and fund sponsors in the formation of hedge funds, including SEC, regulatory, tax and ERISA issues.