



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LAW DEPARTMENTS TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AS THE CORPORATE LEGAL STANDARD BRINGS UNIFORM STANDARDS TO LEGAL BUSINESS PROCESS**

LegalTech, New York City – January 31, 2005 – The Corporate Legal Standard (CLS) today announced that it has commissioned APQC to assist in the creation of The Legal Business Process and Metrics Benchmarking Standards (Legal Benchmarking Standards). This first uniform business process and metrics benchmarking standard for the legal field is designed to reduce costs and optimize performance by promoting standardized business process classification and law department measures in the field of legal service for business. The Legal Benchmarking Standards will serve as an industry-neutral set of process definitions and measures, enabling in-house legal departments to classify and benchmark their activities against organizations globally while adopting best practices.

As part of this initiative, CLS also announced that Debra Snider, author of *The Productive Culture Blueprint* and former EVP, General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer of Heller Financial, Inc.; Ron Peppe, Vice President, Law and Communications at the Association of Corporate Counsel; and Steven Lauer, Director, Integrity Research at Integrity Interactive are among the first to join the Law Department Benchmarking Standards Panel. This panel of committed legal industry experts and thought leaders is chartered with continuously improving the use of The Legal Benchmarking Standards and helping to facilitate its adoption within the legal community.

“Providing a framework and common measures for benchmarking information allows law departments to realize service and bottom-line savings through process improvement,” APQC President Carla O’Dell said.

CLS’ effort will provide a forum to address cost pressures faced by corporations and the desire by law departments to apply a more business-like approach to the practice of law to address cost issues. The goal is to assist law departments to do more with less through business process improvements.

“The Legal Benchmarking Standards provides a common foundation for the legal industry to discuss ways to identify relevant legal business processes, a forum to discuss best practices and a way to capture these best practices,” CLS President & CEO Nena W. Wong said. “APQC provides decades of innovation in the business process improvement field.”

For more information on the Legal Benchmarking Standards initiative, to inquire about membership on the Law Department Benchmarking Standards Panel, or to receive a working model of the Legal Benchmarking Standards, please contact CLS at [info@corplegalstandard.com](mailto:info@corplegalstandard.com).

**APQC**

An internationally recognized resource for process and performance improvement, APQC helps organizations adapt to rapidly changing environments, build new and better ways to work, and succeed in a competitive marketplace. With a focus on productivity, knowledge management, benchmarking, and quality improvement initiatives, APQC works with its member organizations to identify best practices, discover effective methods of improvement, broadly disseminate findings, and connect individuals with one another and the knowledge, training, and tools they need to succeed. Founded in 1977, APQC is a member-based nonprofit serving approximately 500 organizations worldwide in all sectors of business, education, and government. APQC is also a proud winner of the 2003 and 2004

North American Most Admired Knowledge Enterprises (MAKE) award. Learn more about APQC by visiting [www.apqc.org](http://www.apqc.org) or calling 800-776-9676 or +01-713-681-4020.

**The Corporate Legal Standard, Inc.**

The Corporate Legal Standard, Inc. (CLS) seeks to create the industry standard in corporate and government law department practice by combining best practices in business process improvement, content and technology to enhance efficiencies and productivity as well as to promote consistent work quality. CLS's patent-pending Agenda™ System is the industry's first total collaboration and Productivity Operating System™ that offers a pre-configured portal/extranet/intranet/knowledge management/business process workflow improvement system. For more information about CLS, visit [www.corplegalstandard.com](http://www.corplegalstandard.com) or call 888.CLS.7150.

**CONTACT:**

The Corporate Legal Standard Media Relations  
888.CLS.7150 or [media@corplegalstandard.com](mailto:media@corplegalstandard.com)

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