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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A POWERFUL GLOBAL EQUATION: BERKLEY LIFE SCIENCES + LLOYD'S SYNDICATE 1967 = ACCESS TO ADMITTED INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL TRIAL COVERAGE

Ewing, NJ, July 1, 2009 -- Berkley Life Sciences, LLC, a member company of W. R. Berkley Corporation, today announces an expansion of its international capabilities.

Through a strategic alliance with W. R. Berkley Syndicate Ltd., admitted clinical trials liability cover will be available to Berkley Life Sciences customers conducting clinical trials outside of the United States starting July 15th. Policies will be underwritten by Syndicate 1967 at Lloyd's, which has the ability to provide admitted cover in over 40 countries worldwide.

Unique features of the alliance include:

- **Technology Support:** A **web-enabled application** will help streamline the process of obtaining certificates of insurance where there are custom requirements. Certificates will typically be issued in **two business days or less**.
- **Country Specific Intelligence:** A country database will help customers understand the important issues they need to consider when conducting clinical trials outside of the United States.

In discussing the significance of the strategic alliance, Jill Wadlund, President of Berkley Life Sciences, noted: "This strategic alliance leverages the international reach and local knowledge of Lloyd's to overcome the challenges faced by companies seeking to conduct clinical trials in an effective and compliant manner." W. R. Berkley Syndicate Ltd. Chief Executive, Mike Sibthorpe, added: "We are delighted to collaborate with our colleagues at Berkley Life Sciences in this endeavor. We see great synergy between our two W. R. Berkley companies and look forward to providing seamless service to our mutual insureds."

Commenting on plans for continued expansion, Lisa Krist, Vice President and International Manager, stated: "While we are initiating this effort within the extensive Lloyd's platform, we intend to continue to expand our capabilities by aligning with other W. R. Berkley companies or entering into additional strategic alliances where necessary. This will ensure that our customers have access to admitted cover virtually everywhere they conduct clinical trials."

For additional information regarding Berkley Life Sciences and its international capabilities please visit www.berkleyls.com or contact Lisa Krist, V.P. and International Manager, at lkrist@berkleyls.com.

About Berkley Life Sciences, LLC

Berkley Life Sciences, LLC, a member company of W. R. Berkley Corporation, is solely dedicated to serving the needs of the life science industry, providing sophisticated, innovative insurance products and services to life science customers of all sizes.

About W. R. Berkley Syndicate Ltd.

Founded by W. R. Berkley Corporation, Syndicate 1967 focuses on global lines of business and operates from Box 209 on the second gallery at Lloyd's.

About W. R. Berkley Corporation

Founded in 1967, W. R. Berkley Corporation is an insurance holding company that is among the largest commercial lines writers in the United States and operates in five segments of the property casualty insurance business: specialty insurance, regional property casualty insurance, alternative markets, reinsurance and international.