

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUFUS H. RIVERS APPOINTED TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT COMPANIES (NAIC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BETHESDA, MD// OCTOBER 29, 2008//The National Association of Investment Companies (NAIC) has announced that Rufus H. Rivers, Managing Director of RLJ Equity Partners, was elected by the NAIC membership to serve on the Board of Directors.

"The NAIC is a wonderful organization which has done tremendous things to advance minority and women owned private equity firms and I am honored to serve as a member of the Board of Directors," said Rivers. "I look forward to working in this capacity to continue the great work the NAIC has done for more than 40 years."

Commenting on the appointment, NAIC President & CEO Samuel Boyd, Jr., said, "We're ecstatic about having Rufus on NAIC's Board of Directors. His investment experience and vast network are perfect complements to his affable personality. His leadership qualities will serve the NAIC membership well as he lends them in service to the Association."

The National Association of Investment Companies (NAIC) is the industry association for investment companies dedicating financial resources to investment in an ethnically diverse marketplace. NAIC member companies invest in privately held businesses that have a high probability of growth and the ability to generate significant returns for investors and shareholders.

The RLJ Companies

The RLJ Companies, founded by Robert L. Johnson, owner of the NBA Charlotte Bobcats and founder of Black Entertainment Television, is a diverse portfolio of companies in the financial services, asset management, real estate, hospitality, professional sports, film production, and gaming industries. An innovative business network, The RLJ Companies seeks to target undiscovered or underserved markets; then exercise solid management to achieve results. The RLJ Companies is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, with operations in Charlotte, Los Angeles, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

RLJ Equity Partners

RLJ Equity Partners (RLJ Equity or the Firm) is a middle market private equity firm founded by Robert L. Johnson and The Carlyle Group. The Firm makes control investments in companies with enterprise values between \$75 and \$300 million. By leveraging over 80 years of collective investment experience, the Firm pursues proprietary, non-auction situations in a wide range of industries. The Firm partners with proven management teams to enhance value and growth through a combination of strategic capital and operational involvement.