



NEWS RELEASE

The RLJ Companies Ranks High on Black Enterprises' 'B.E. 100s List' in Automotive, Banking, Private Equity and Industrial/Services

Bob Johnson is the First Entrepreneur to Have Five Companies Included in a Single Year Breaking His Previous 2009 Ranking

BETHESDA, MD//MAY 25, 2010//The RLJ Companies, founded by Robert L. Johnson today announced five of its portfolio companies ranked high on the "2010 B.E. 100s List," published annually by *Black Enterprise* magazine.

RLJ McLarty Landers Automotive Group ranked 1st in a category of 60 in this year's auto dealership rankings. RLJ McLarty Landers was founded in 2007 and is headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas. The company consists of 35 automotive franchises and three Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealerships across the South Central, Southeast, and Midwest regions of the country.

Also included in top rankings is **Urban Trust Bank (UTB)**, which is noted 2nd this year in the bank sector ranking. Urban Trust Bank previously ranked 12th on last year's BE 100s list and currently operates 26 branches across Central Florida and the Washington, DC region, including three standalone branches and 23 branches within Wal-Mart stores.

RLJ Development, LLC and the **Bobcats Sports & Entertainment** are ranked 8th and 36th respectively out of 100 in the industrial/services rankings. **RLJ Development, LLC** is a privately-held real estate investment company that primarily owns upscale select service and compact full service hotels in major markets in North America. RLJ Development, LLC currently owns 119 hotels with more than 17,000 guestrooms.

The **NBA Charlotte Bobcats** debuted in 2004 as part of the Southeast Division of the NBA's Eastern Conference. On March 17, 2010, Bob Johnson sold majority ownership to Michael Jordan and MJ Basketball Holdings, LLC. Johnson retains a minority ownership interest and serves as the Bobcats' governor to the NBA.

Making its debut on this year's list, **RLJ Equity Partners, LLC** ranks 10th out of 15 on the private equity firms list. RLJ Equity Partners was founded in partnership with The Carlyle Group and specializes in middle-market leveraged buy-outs, leveraged recapitalizations, and growth equity. As of April 2010, RLJ Equity Partners has invested in three companies.

About RLJ Companies:

The RLJ Companies, founded by Robert L. Johnson, is an innovative business network that provides strategic investments in a diverse portfolio of companies. The RLJ Companies seeks to target undiscovered or underserved markets then exercise solid management to achieve results. Within The RLJ Companies portfolio, Johnson owns or holds majority interests in businesses operating in banking, private equity, hospitality, automobile dealerships, entertainment, and video lottery terminal (VLT) gaming. The RLJ Companies is headquartered in Bethesda, MD, with operations in Charlotte, NC; Orlando, FL; Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles, CA; San Juan, PR; and Monrovia, Liberia. Prior to founding The RLJ Companies, Johnson was founder and chairman of Black Entertainment Television (BET).

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