

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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M.R. BEAL ANNOUNCES VETERAN PUBLIC FINANCE EXECUTIVE MATTHEW DEANE HAS JOINED FIRM AS MANAGING DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 20, 2008 – M.R. Beal & Company, a leading investment bank specializing in municipal, corporate finance and equity execution, announced today that Matthew Deane has joined the firm as a managing director of the public finance department.

With more than three decades of senior banking experience, Mr. Deane most recently served as president and CEO of Interval Capital Corp., a developer of highly specialized financial models. Previously, Mr. Deane was a managing director of investment banking at Merrill Lynch & Co. and co-head of the public finance group, where he originated and maintained a \$9 billion tax-exempt money market book.

“Mathew Deane is widely known and respected in the world of public finance and his joining M.R. Beal is a major boon to our firm,” said Bernard B. Beal, founder and chief executive. “We expect Matthew to play a leadership role helping us execute our very ambitious strategic goals and objectives.”

Mr. Deane earlier co-founded Reinoso & Co., formerly a top-20 municipal bond underwriting firm. He began his career at the brokerage firm L.F. Rothschild & Co. as an assistant trader and eventually was made a partner.

Mr. Deane, received a BS in Marketing and Finance from the Carroll School of Management at Boston College.

About M.R. Beal

Founded in 1988, M.R. Beal is a leading investment bank specializing in municipal, corporate finance and equity execution. Based in New York, the minority-owned firm participated in \$31.6 billion of municipal underwritings in 2006 and continues to rank among the top 20 underwriters of municipal securities worldwide. Additionally the firm has participated in nine of the 11 largest

IPO's in history, representing an equity volume exceeding \$21 billion to date. M.R. Beal's institutional clients include a wide array of leading U.S. corporations, as well as state and local government and not-for-profit entities. In addition to its New York headquarters, M.R. Beal also has offices in Chicago, Sacramento, Dallas and Atlanta.

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