

NEW ACCOUNTANT[®]

Weaver and Tidwell Launches New Financial Services Niche Practice

New practice to target investment companies, led by Audit Partner Bob Loritz

(July 1, 2008) – Weaver and Tidwell LLP announces the launch of a new financial services niche practice that will target investment companies, including hedge funds and private equity funds. This practice will be led by Robert J. “Bob” Loritz, CPA and audit partner. With offices in Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, Weaver and Tidwell is ranked by *Practical Accountant* magazine as the Southwest’s largest regional independent accounting firm.

Weaver and Tidwell’s Financial Services practice offers comprehensive professional accounting, tax and consulting services based on a unique focus on the other financial services sector, including hedge funds, financial institutions, broker dealers and investment companies. Services include assurance, consulting and tax services.

“Hedge fund and private equity activity in the securities markets has recently grown substantially,” said W.M. “Mack” Lawhon, Weaver and Tidwell’s managing partner.

“This new niche practice combined with Bob’s experience will allow us to offer our services to this specific market.”

In his new position, Loritz will act as partner to North Texas clients in this target industry and oversee the activities for this niche.

There has been significant growth in hedge funds and private equity funds as high net worth investors look for alternative investments. These investments allow more freedom to the manager as to type and structure of investments which will theoretically allow for quicker responses to market changes and better returns. Weaver and Tidwell provides audit services to these funds so the fund has audited financial statements for its current and potential investors. In addition, the firm provides consulting and tax compliance services that allow the funds to provide required information to its investors.

Loritz, named an audit partner with Weaver and Tidwell in 2005, previously served as audit senior manager at the firm and has 15 years of public accounting experience. His specific experience includes servicing investment companies (including hedge funds and private equity funds), public companies, financial institutions, employee benefit plans and oil and gas entities.

He holds a bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting and finance from Texas Christian University and is a recipient of the Elijah Watts Sells Award. Loritz is a

member of Texas Society of Public Accountants (TSCPA), TSCPA Fort Worth chapter and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Founded in 1950, Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P. currently employs approximately 300 employees, including 225 accountants and consultants. With offices in Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, Weaver and Tidwell is ranked the largest independent certified public accounting firm in the Southwest by Practical Accountant magazine.

The firm represents a broad range of clients including large national and international corporations, publicly and privately held businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government entities. In addition to the firm's audit, accounting and tax services, its accountants and consultants practice in the areas of business valuation; estate planning/wealth transfer; forensic accounting; information technology; international services; property tax; risk advisory services; and state and local tax. It also performs peer reviews for other accounting firms.

To meet the growing needs of its clients in the areas of employee benefits and financial planning, the firm has two affiliate firms: Retirement Plan Concepts and Weaver and Tidwell Financial Advisors, Ltd.

Learn more at www.weaverandtidwell.com.

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