

## **Weaver and Tidwell's James Fitts and Patrick Hardison Promoted to Partners**

(May 15, 2008) – Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P. announces the promotions of James R. Fitts, CPA to Audit Partner and Patrick K. Hardison, CPA to Tax and Business Services Partner effective June 1, 2008. 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.

“We are pleased that James and Patrick will be leaders in our Assurance Services and Tax and Business Services groups,” said W.M. “Mack” Lawhon, Weaver and Tidwell's managing partner. “Naming these two as partners supports our efforts to accommodate the firm's growth associated with current circumstances in the marketplace that is creating significant growth opportunities for our business enterprise.”

Weaver and Tidwell's Assurance Services group offers audit and review services, risk advisory services, litigation support, forensic accounting and peer review services.

Weaver and Tidwell's Tax and Business Services group provides a full range of tax and accounting services to both businesses and individuals, including representation before the IRS and other taxing authorities, compensation planning, trust and estate tax return preparation, IRA distribution planning, stockholder (buy/sell) reviews, federal and state tax credit reviews, inventory and LIFO studies, cost segregation, business acquisition and sale strategies, choice of entity, 1031 tax free exchanges, FAS 109 compliance and net operating loss utilization.



*James R. Fitts*

Fitts, named Audit partner, offices in Fort Worth. Prior to his appointment, Fitts served as senior manager in Audit Services with an emphasis in accounting and auditing for a wide array of privately-held, public, nonprofit, and governmental entities.

With more than 13 years experience in public accounting, Fitts joined Weaver and Tidwell in 1995. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from Abilene Christian University and has completed 163 hours of continuing professional education over the past three years. He maintains active memberships with the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Fort Worth Chapter of TSCPA where he participated in the 2001-2002 Leadership Development Class and chaired the organization's Community Volunteers in 2003.



*Patrick K. Hardison*

Hardison, named Tax & Business Services partner, offices in Houston. Prior to his appointment as partner, Hardison served as the senior manager in the Houston office's Tax and Business Services group with an emphasis on federal and state tax related engagements for corporations, partnerships, L.L.C.'s and fiduciaries. He has significant experience in providing tax and consulting services to major industries, including construction, manufacturing, energy, healthcare and retail operations. He also services high net worth individuals.

With more than 17 years experience in public accounting, Hardison holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. He maintains active membership with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA) and the associated Houston Chapter and Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). His community

involvement includes membership in West University United Methodist Church and the treasurer of Woodside Civic Club.

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](http://www.weaverandtidwell.com).

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