



P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**STARKMAN**

Eric Starkman

212-624-9755

[erics@starkmanpr.com](mailto:erics@starkmanpr.com)

**BLAYLOCK ROBERT VAN ANNOUNCES VETERAN MUNICIPAL BANKER  
BERNARD B. BEAL HAS JOINED THE FIRM AS CHAIRMAN**

*Founder of M.R. Beal & Company To Oversee  
Municipal Banking, Underwriting, Sales, and Trading*

Firm to be Renamed Blaylock Beal Van, LLC

**OAKLAND, CA, February 3, 2014** – Blaylock Robert Van, LLC, a leading minority-owned investment bank and financial services company, announced today that veteran municipal banker Bernard B. Beal has joined the firm as Chairman. Mr. Beal will oversee the firm’s municipal banking, underwriting, sales, and trading activities. Underscoring the influence and prestige Mr. Beal brings to the firm, it will be renamed Blaylock Beal Van, LLC, pending regulatory approval.

Mr. Beal, who has more than three decades of municipal investment banking experience, is the founder and CEO of New York-based M.R. Beal & Company, one of the nation’s leading minority-owned investment banks specializing in municipal and corporate finance. Since Mr. Beal founded his namesake firm in 1988, following a successful nine-year career in municipal and corporate finance at Shearson Lehman Hutton, M.R. Beal managed municipal financings totaling in excess of \$400 billion, and served as financial advisor on over 60 financings worth in excess of \$7 billion. In 1999, M.R. Beal substantially increased its presence in corporate finance and expanded its equity research capabilities, and since that time participated in over \$75 billion of equity and corporate debt financings.

“I have greatly admired and respected Bernard Beal for his accomplishments as an investment banker and for being such a positive role model for entrepreneurial minorities looking to build independent businesses on Wall Street,” said Eric Van Standifer, President of Blaylock Robert Van. “Having an opportunity to partner with

Bernard and benefit from his more than 30 years experience is a great boon to me, our employees, and our clients.”

Mr. Beal is on the boards of the National Foundation for Affordable Housing Solutions and the Foundation for Investor Education. He previously served on the boards of the New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Securities Industry Association, the Public Securities Association, the National Association of Securities Professionals, and Carleton College.

Mr. Beal holds an MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Carleton College.

In addition to Mr. Beal, several employees from M.R. Beal will join Blaylock Robert Van and will work in the firm's New York office and soon-to-be-opened Atlanta office.

Blaylock Beal Van, LLC is the combination of three longstanding founders of African-American owned and founded investment banking firms: Ronald Blaylock was the founder of Blaylock & Company, Inc. in 1993; Eric Van Standifer founded Robert Van Securities, Inc. in 1991; and those two firms joined forces in 2007 to form Blaylock Robert Van, LLC. And now Bernard Beal will add his more than 30 years of experience in the renamed Blaylock Beal Van, LLC as it continues its activities as a major minority-owned investment bank and financial services firm.

#### **ABOUT BLAYLOCK ROBERT VAN, LLC**

Blaylock Robert Van, LLC (“BRV”) is a full service, minority-owned investment banking and financial services company which provides corporate debt and equity underwriting, research, sales and trading, and municipal finance services to a blue chip client roster consisting of America's largest and most innovative corporations, financial institutions, municipalities, and high net worth clients. Headquartered in Oakland, CA, with major offices in Oakland, New York City, and Chicago, and other offices in Columbus and Dallas, BRV provides seasoned experience and technologically advanced capabilities valued by its long-standing clients.