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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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**ALLEGIANT ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY UNVEILS 130/30 STRATEGY
FOR INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS**

CLEVELAND—[**March 15, 2007**—Allegiant Asset Management Company today announced the launch of their small cap 130/30 strategy that utilizes one of the firm’s core capabilities in quantitative small cap equity management. The 130/30 small cap strategy was initially seeded on December 28, 2006, and today marks the formal launch of the offering.

Under the management of Allegiant’s Structured Equity Team, portfolio managers Hitesh Patel, PhD, and Julie Liu invest up to 130% of the portfolio’s value in the most attractively-ranked securities while shorting up to 30% of the portfolio’s value in stocks ranking least attractive based on Allegiant’s proprietary quantitative models. The strategy incorporates a number of advanced risk management techniques to control both absolute and relative risk while ensuring trading liquidity. The Russell 2000 Index will serve as the benchmark for the investment style, which will be capped at \$750 million in assets.

“Unlike most 130/30 investment strategies that focus on the large capitalization universe, Allegiant will focus initially on the opportunities in the small capitalization universe. Relaxing the long-only constraint in a less efficient asset class like small cap stocks affords opportunities for increased levels of alpha” said John Abunassar, president and CEO of Allegiant Asset Management. “We are pleased to bring the talents and investment experience of our structured equity team to this innovative product for clients.”

About Allegiant Asset Management Company

Allegiant Asset Management Group is comprised of Allegiant Asset Management Company ("Allegiant"), and Allegiant Institutional Services. Allegiant is an SEC-registered investment advisor and an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of National City Corporation® (NCC). Allegiant has over a 10-year history of delivering investment management strategies to a broad array of institutional clients and currently manages over \$29 billion in assets (as of 12.31.06).

Allegiant serves as the investment advisor to Allegiant Funds—a selection of more than 30 mutual funds covering a broad spectrum of asset classes including equity, fixed-income, tax-free bond and money market funds. We also offer retirement plan services and custody services through Allegiant Institutional Services. Allegiant Institutional Services is a business unit of National City Bank providing record-keeping, trustee and/or custody services, and serves hundreds of retirement plan clients nationwide.

About National City

National City Corporation (NYSE: NCC), headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, is one of the nation's largest financial holding companies. The company operates through an extensive banking network primarily in Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Pennsylvania, and also serves customers in selected markets nationally. Its core businesses include commercial and retail banking, mortgage financing and servicing, consumer finance and asset management. For more information about National City, visit the company's Web site at www.nationalcity.com.

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