



Allegiant Asset Management
200 Public Square – 5th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Kelly Wagner-Amen
216-222-2914
Kelly.wagneramen@allegiantgroup.com
or
Christine Jacobs
312-240-2639
Christine.Jacobs@edelman.com

**PAUL HAYES JOINS
ALLEGIANT ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY'S EQUITY VALUE TEAM**

CHICAGO – September 23, 2008 – Allegiant Asset Management Company is pleased to announce that Paul Hayes has joined the mid cap value/focused equity team as a senior analyst. Hayes will be responsible for conducting research and analysis on value-oriented securities and making portfolio recommendations for the firm's mid cap value and focused equity strategies. He will be working with Michael Santelli, team leader, and Alex Vallecillo, portfolio manager, for Allegiant's mid cap value/focused equity strategies.

“Paul's background as a portfolio manager and skills in fixed income and credit analysis complement the team's overall investment process and philosophy,” said John Abunassar, president and CEO of Allegiant. “His addition to Allegiant brings further depth to the team.”

Hayes joins Allegiant from the Michigan Department of Treasury where he worked the past five years as a co-manager for their \$2.8 billion large cap value equity

fund and as an analyst for the financial sector. Prior to that, he was a managed account analyst working with high net worth clients at CUNA Mutual Group.

Hayes is a CFA charterholder and earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Michigan State University.

About Allegiant Asset Management Company

Allegiant Asset Management Company offers institutional investment capabilities through a comprehensive range of asset classes and styles including traditional and non-traditional. Allegiant is dedicated to producing strong, competitive results to meet the diverse investment requirements of corporations, public entities, Taft-Hartley organizations, foundations and other institutional clients. With \$29.4 billion in assets under management, the firm's independent investment teams are supported by a centralized sales, service and support model, which enables them to do what they do best – manage our clients' portfolios either through separately managed portfolios and/or mutual funds. Allegiant is an SEC-registered investment advisor and a subsidiary of National City Corporation (R). Allegiant also provides retirement services for defined benefit and defined contribution plans, as well as trustee, custody and securities lending services to clients nationwide through Allegiant Institutional Services, a business unit of National City Bank.

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, 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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