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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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ALLEGIANT ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP OFFERS SECURITIES LENDING FOR INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

CLEVELAND—[August 1, 2007]—Allegiant Asset Management Group now offers securities lending capabilities to its custody clients looking to increase incremental yield on their investment portfolios by lending securities to outside parties. The service is available primarily to pension funds, endowments, multi-employer plans and foundations.

“We are pleased to offer this competitive service to our clients. By using sophisticated reporting systems and conservative management principles, we are leveraging our existing capabilities for clients while striving to minimize their risks,” said John Kozak, Managing Director for Allegiant’s Retirement Products group. “We continually seek ways to deliver competitive services and a wide range of offerings to our institutional clients.”

Allegiant matches clients with qualified top-tier credit organizations wishing to borrow securities. The borrowers are primarily broker/dealers seeking to cover short positions or execute hedging or arbitrage strategies. A pledge of collateral is made by the borrower, invested in short-term market instruments and monitored daily for changes in market value of the collateral and borrowed security. A portion of the earned interest during the loan term is returned to Allegiant clients as a fee for lending the securities, providing clients with incremental income on select assets in their portfolio. Allegiant’s relationship managers help clients set securities lending parameters and reinvestment guidelines to align with their overall investment goals and policies.

About Allegiant Asset Management Group

Allegiant Asset Management Group comprises Allegiant Institutional Services, Allegiant Asset Management Company (Allegiant) and Allegiant Funds.

Allegiant Institutional Services, a business unit of National City Bank, offers retirement plan services, custody services and securities lending and serves hundreds of clients nationwide.

Allegiant is an SEC-registered investment advisor and an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of National City Corporation® (NCC). Allegiant offers more than 10 years of experience delivering investment management strategies to a broad array of institutional clients and currently manages more than \$30.4 billion in assets (as of 6.30.07). 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. For more information about Allegiant Asset Management Group, visit www.AllegiantAssetManagement.com.

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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