



**Allegiant Asset Management**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTOPHER VON BARGEN JOINS ALLEGIANT TO EXPAND  
SOUTHEAST INSTITUTIONAL SALES EFFORTS**

CLEVELAND—May 6, 2008—Allegiant Asset Management Co. announced today that Christopher Von Bargaen has joined the firm as Director for Institutional Sales for the Southeast region. Based in Atlanta, he will focus primarily on developing and expanding Allegiant’s client relationships in the region. This is Allegiant’s second addition to its sales team this year; in March, a new sales director was hired in California.

“Chris’ more than 25 years of sales experience within the institutional investment community speaks to his abilities to lead and foster new business relationships. We’re confident Chris will drive the firm’s sales efforts in the Southeast, and that he will play a key role in our firm’s overall sales expansion efforts,” said Rob Joseph, managing director of Institutional Sales.

Prior to joining Allegiant, Von Bargaen worked for BNY Asset Management (The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation) where he specialized in institutional products sales including, hedge fund of funds, real estate, bank loan pools and active and passive

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equity and fixed income products. In addition, Von Bargaen has held positions with Gabelli Asset Management (GAMCO Investors, Inc.), Berger Financial Group Inc., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.

Von Bargaen earned his Bachelor's of Science degree from Auburn University. He also holds the NASD (FINRA) Series 7, 63 and 65 licenses.

**About Allegiant Asset Management Company**

Allegiant Asset Management Group comprises Allegiant Asset Management Company ("Allegiant"), Allegiant Funds and Allegiant Institutional Services. Allegiant is an SEC-registered investment advisor and a subsidiary of National City Corporation® (NCC). The firm delivers investment management strategies to institutional clients and has more than \$31 billion in assets under management (as of 3.31.08).

Allegiant serves as the investment advisor to Allegiant Funds — a mutual fund family of domestic and international equity, taxable and tax-exempt fixed income and money market portfolios. Allegiant Institutional Services, a business unit of National City Bank, offers recordkeeping, 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, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, 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](http://www.nationalcity.com).

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