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MARY BETH KISSANE JOINS WALEK & ASSOCIATES TO HEAD INVESTOR RELATIONS, CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS

NEW YORK, September 10, 2007 — Walek & Associates, one of the largest and the fastest-growing independent financial and corporate public relations firm in the U.S., announced today that Mary Beth Kissane has joined the firm as a Principal and head of the firm's newly created Investor Relations & Corporate Transactions practice.

Ms. Kissane will be involved in providing investor relations and media relations counsel to public and private companies in M&A, crises, restructurings, IPOs and other transactions. In addition, she will provide ongoing communications to the firm's professional services, investor relations and financial services clients.

"I've known Tom and the Walek team for many years and have always admired their integrity, focus on strategy and client service," said Ms. Kissane. "I'm very excited to be on board in this interesting and challenging climate for corporations, public companies and asset managers alike."

"Mary Beth's deep knowledge of investor relations and financial media relations is a true asset to our clients domestically and internationally," said Thomas Walek, President. "We're delighted to welcome her to the team."

Ms. Kissane is an internationally recognized expert in financial communications for public and private companies, professional services organizations, financial services companies and alternative investment firms -- each areas of significant client work at Walek.

Ms. Kissane's background includes positions at Abernathy MacGregor, as a Senior Vice President, where she focused on crisis situations and transactions for multi-national corporations and work for leading alternative investment firms; Senior Managing Director of the Financial Services Practice at Hill & Knowlton, a global PR firm; and Investor Relations Director at Georgeson, a leading global proxy and shareholder services firm. Most recently she headed her own consulting practice at Corporate Perception Research LLC.

Ms. Kissane is a past president of the New York Chapter of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI) and is a Steering Committee member of NIRI's Senior Roundtable. She is also a member of the American Bar Association, the New York State bar, and PR Newswire's Disclosure Advisory Board. She is an adjunct instructor at the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies and at the Iona College School of Mass Communication -- where she lectures on investor relations, corporate governance and public relations.

Her 1996 note on international corporate governance has been cited by the World Economic Forum, international governance scholars and state bar associations.

Ms. Kissane received her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Iona College and her law degree from New York Law School, where she was a member of the International Law Journal.

About Walek & Associates

Founded in 1998, Walek & Associates is one of the largest and the fastest-growing independent financial and corporate public relations firm in the U.S., according to J.R. O'Dwyer Co., Inc. Walek specializes in ongoing and transaction-based media and shareholder relations for public and private companies across capital markets, traditional and alternative asset management, banking, M&A, professional services, financial services and financial technology. From building visibility and brands to managing crises and launching products, Walek delivers results that help clients build business. For more information, visit www.walek.com.

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