

Riverside Risk Advisors Hires Steven Plake in Response to Pension Plans' Growing Need for Derivatives Advice

New York, NY—April 26, 2011—Riverside Risk Advisors, a boutique derivatives advisory firm, has hired Steven Plake to broaden its relationship with corporate and public pension plans, which are increasingly using derivatives for financial planning purposes.

"We are reaching out to pension funds, their consultants and investment managers in a derivatives advisory capacity," commented Joyce Frost, a partner at Riverside Risk Advisors. "Steve will lead Riverside's pension effort helping plans in evaluating transactions and assisting in the construction and execution of derivatives strategies, complying with fiduciary duties and working through Dodd-Frank transition issues," she added.

Pension plans use derivatives as a tool to reduce general interest rate risk in planning for retired employees' benefits and to enhance returns on assets. Historically, derivative programs have been implemented in consultation between the pension plan's consultant and underlying investment managers.

"As derivatives become both more complex and important for pension funds, trustees need independent expert advisers who have the depth of experience to truly help them assess the appropriateness and pricing of derivatives," commented Edward Krawitt, Trustee, EMI Group Pension Fund.

Mr. Plake has five years of experience working with corporate and public pension and retirement plans developing derivative programs and structured products. He provided deal management, documentation negotiation and structuring support on a range of investment strategies, including synthetic duration extension, portable alpha and stable value. In addition, Mr. Plake has routinely assisted pension and retirement plan sponsors in understanding and complying with fiduciary duties in the investment management context.

Prior to joining Riverside, Mr. Plake was at NISA Investment Advisors, a fixed income asset management firm specializing in managing pension plan assets. While at NISA, Mr. Plake played an integral role assisting in the development, implementation and execution of hedging strategies for pension plans. He was also a member of the firm's risk management and counterparty credit review committees. Mr. Plake holds a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis and a B.S. (with Honors) from Cornell University.

About Riverside Risk Advisors

Riverside Risk Advisors provides end-users independent advice on the structuring and execution of derivatives, including interest rate and currency swap transactions and credit derivatives. It also provides expertise in accounting for derivatives and client services relating to investment banking, private equity, project finance and financial institutions.

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