



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact Business Growth Alliance, LLC. (BGA)

Manning J. O'Connor II, Executive Director

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MANNING J. O'CONNOR II APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS GROWTH ALLIANCE, LLC. (BGA)

Pittsburgh, PA and Greenwich, CT. (March 16, 2006). Messrs. James C. Bly, Jr. and Francois M. de Visscher, Co-Chairmen of the Business Growth Alliance, LLC (BGA), a national firm specializing in providing growth advisory and investment banking services for family-owned and other closely-held, middle market companies, are pleased to announce, on behalf of the BGA Founding Firms, the appointment of Mr. Manning J. O'Connor II as the Executive Director of BGA. Mr. O'Connor assumed his duties on December 1, 2005.

Manning J. "Jim" O'Connor II, Executive Director and Board Member of BGA, an experienced attorney, worked closely with Mr. Bly for many years in developing the BGA business plan and strategy. Mr. O'Connor has repositioned a considerable portion of his law practice within his Law Firm in order to accept the appointment to his position with BGA. Mr. O'Connor also serves on the adjunct faculty at the Duquesne University School of Law. He has also lectured at Robert Morris University on the topic of business law and is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Mr. O'Connor is a 1983 graduate of Duquesne University Law School. He earned his bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Duquesne University in 1980.

Mr. O'Connor said, "I am truly excited to have this opportunity to lead BGA, and I appreciate the confidence the Board Members have in me. The Principals of the Member Firms of BGA have well-established their credentials as proven growth advisors and investment bankers in working with substantial business owning families and the broader middle market."

Mr. Bly said, “We are extremely pleased to welcome Jim O’Connor as our Executive Director. He has been instrumental in shaping the philosophy and values, which will guide the implementation of BGA’s business plan. Mr. de Visscher and I are confident in Mr. O’Connor’s ability to elevate BGA to a new strategic level to lead the middle market growth advisory and investment banking services industry in the United States and overseas.”

ABOUT BGA

Business Growth Alliance, LLC (BGA) is a National Affiliate Network of seasoned, professional services firms, which are dedicated to providing growth advisory and investment banking services to middle market and family-owned companies and their principals. In addition to providing core growth advisory and investment banking services, BGA Member Firms collaborate to address the strategic growth, capital formation, owner liquidity, and governance needs of such businesses and their owners.

Included in BGA’s Affiliate Member Firms’ Clientele are: companies owned by individuals listed among the Forbes 400 and businesses listed on *Forbes’* list of the Largest Private Companies, *Family Business Magazine’s* rankings of the Oldest Family Companies in America, America’s 150 Largest Family Companies, The World’s Oldest Family Companies, the World’s 250 Largest Family Firms, and many other noteworthy family-owned and closely-held, middle market companies including companies owned by individuals, families, trusts, buyout and private equity funds, and as subsidiaries of larger businesses.

The eight Founding Affiliate Members of BGA include:

de Visscher & Co. of Greenwich, CT

Source Companies, LLC of Pittsburgh, PA

yet2.com of Boston, MA

The Pursuit Group of Toledo, OH

Tenzing Consulting of Pittsburgh, PA

Value Defined Middle Market, LLC of Toledo, OH

Asher Training of Washington, DC

US China Business Solutions, Inc. of Washington, DC and Shenzhen, China

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