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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DONALD WATSON, VICE PRESIDENT OF RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES/
GATEWAY PRIVATE | WEALTH NAMED TO *BANK INVESTMENT CONSULTANT'S*
TOP 50 LIST

Sarasota, Florida - *Bank Investment Consultant* magazine has announced its annual ranking of the Top 50 Bank Reps. The prestigious list featured **Donald Watson**, Vice President of Gateway Private | Wealth in Sarasota. Watson was one of seven financial advisors affiliated with the Raymond James Financial Services Financial Institutions Division (RJFS-FID) to be included.

Following a rigorous search, the winners were selected not just for their production, but for the level of deposits held in the branch or branches covered by the advisor.

John Houston, Managing Director of RJFS-FID, stated "Being named to the BIC Top 50 is a great achievement and everyone at Raymond James congratulates Don. Being included on this list is a testament to his dedication and success, and is symbolic of the quality service provided by Don, his financial institution and RJFS-FID."

"I am honored to receive this recognition. Now more than ever the most important aspect of my job is to make sure the investments fit my clients' needs. I work hard to uncover their comfort level and their goals to ensure I'm providing them with the best service possible," Watson stated.

About Bank Investment Consultant

Bank Investment Consultant has been the choice for bank-based financial advisors since the early 1990s, and remains the industry leader in both readership and relevance. They cover a range of topics pertinent to financial advisors, helping readers to acquire quality clients, to understand increasingly complex products, and to run their practices more efficiently.

About the Financial Institutions Division of RJFS

The Financial Institutions Division of Raymond James Financial Services (RJFS-FID) was created in 1987 to provide community-based banks and credit unions with an alternative to the traditional third-party investment providers. RJFS-FID provides true, full-service securities

brokerage to financial institutions seeking to compete with the national securities firms. In addition to a full complement of investment products and services, RJFS-FID has the ability to deliver investment banking, research, self-clearing capabilities and wealth management services. The division currently provides investment services to over 200 financial institutions across 45 states with total brokerage assets of more than \$16 billion in 298,000 client accounts.

About Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. is a national investment firm providing financial services to individuals, corporations and municipalities through more than 3,200 financial advisors in 2,000 offices throughout the United States. For more than 30 years, Raymond James Financial Services has provided a wide range of services through our affiliate, Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC. Both broker/dealers are wholly owned subsidiaries of Raymond James Financial, Inc. (NYSE-RJF), a financial services holding company which has more than 5,000 financial advisors serving 1.8 million accounts throughout the United States, Canada and overseas. In addition, total client assets are approximately \$167 billion, of which approximately \$27 billion are managed by the firm's asset management subsidiaries.

For additional information, please contact Don Watson, Vice President, at (941) 306-0122. Please visit the Raymond James Press Center at raymondjames.com/media

About Gateway Private | Wealth

Gateway Private | Wealth is a division of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida. Offices are located at Gateway Bank's full service banking center in the Center Pointe Plaza at 2033 Main Street in downtown Sarasota, one block east of South Washington Boulevard.

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida is an independent community bank serving business and consumer banking customers in Sarasota and Manatee counties. A second banking center location is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street West and Manatee Avenue West. Gateway Bank will open a third banking center at 6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road and University Parkway in March 2009.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The Board of Directors includes: Charles J. Bartlett – Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; Dr. P.T. “Bud” Fleuchaus – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; David J. Grain – Grain Communications Group, Inc.; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida; Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton – The Colony Beach & Tennis Resort; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction Inc.; and Jan E. Smith – Jan Smith and Company.

Further information regarding Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida may be obtained by contacting Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO at 941-306-0105.

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