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**The Gerson Group Formed to Provide Executive Recruiting  
and Corporate Development Solutions to the Financial Services Industry**

NEW YORK, NY -- (February 15, 2006) – The Gerson Group announced today the launch of its new firm specializing in retained executive recruiting and offering corporate development solutions to clients in the financial services industry, including private equity, hedge funds, asset management, investment banking, and wealth management.

The firm's founding partners – Russ Gerson and Maureen Brille – bring established expertise in areas such as executive recruiting, strategic acquisitions, alliances, and capital raising for leading financial services firms with which they have long-term relationships.

Gerson, the firm's CEO, has more than 20 years of executive search experience and has successfully completed over 400 search assignments. Prior to launching The Gerson Group, he founded A.T. Kearney Executive Search's Global Financial Markets Practice. Gerson also founded the London office of The Whitney Group, the U.S. office of Baines Gwinner, and the Global Financial Services Practice for Webb Johnson. He has advised and led recruitment initiatives for numerous premier financial institutions.

Maureen Brille has 19 years of experience on Wall Street, including six years in executive search at A.T. Kearney Executive Search and Egon Zehnder International. Prior to executive recruiting, Brille spent 13 years at Chemical Bank, JPMorgan, and Wit Capital in investment banking, private equity, and wealth management.

Additional team members include Mark Levine, Deborah Markus-Malone, Lizzie Bommer, Barbara Muller Wilding, Rachel Schultz, Laurie Pearl, and Glenn Stevens. Each has worked for leading firms such as JPMorgan Chase, Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, Mizuho Financial, and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, and executive recruiting firms, including A.T. Kearney, Egon Zehnder International, Korn Ferry International, and Russell Reynolds Associates.

"The Gerson Group acts as a strategic partner with our clients by providing valuable market intelligence, access to outstanding professionals, creative solutions, and strategic advice to optimize human capital and build businesses," Gerson said.

For further information, visit [www.gersongroup.com](http://www.gersongroup.com) or call 212.796.8120. The Gerson Group is located at 445 Park Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York, 10022.

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