



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**BLAYLOCK ROBERT VAN EXPANDS RESEARCH PLATFORM;
HIRES TECH VETERAN JOEL ACHRAMOWICZ**

OAKLAND, CA, April 29, 2009 – Blaylock Robert Van LLC, a leading minority-owned investment bank and financial services company, announced today it has hired tech industry veteran Joel Achramowicz to join its research team as senior vice president overseeing the firm's tech sector coverage.

Most recently a consultant to the industry, Mr. Achramowicz has held positions at Hewlett Packard, General Electric, ViewStar Corp and others in various technical, sales and consultative capacities. On the sell side, he most recently worked as a technology analyst at MDB Capital Group with specific responsibility for semiconductors, telecommunications and special situations.

The addition of Mr. Achramowicz marks an expansion of the firm's equity research platform into traditional specialties. The current model, which features "ELROI" as the platform engine, supports the firm's development and distribution of equity strategy research to the institutional investment community.

"Our current research model continues to gain acceptance among our institutional clients, who will be further advantaged by this extension," said Steven Singleton, the firm's Executive Vice

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President and Director of Research. "Joel's extensive experience and expertise allows us to extend our model to address information technology in a traditional fundamental manner and to establish a Silicon Valley presence that will serve our clients at large".

Mr. Achramowicz holds a Masters of Science in Computer Architecture from the University of Southern California, a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Stanford and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Claremont McKenna College. He is a member of the Association of Investment Management & Research (AIMR) and the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers (IEEE).

ABOUT BLAYLOCK ROBERT VAN, LLC

Blaylock Robert Van, LLC is a leading minority-owned investment banking boutique offering innovative sales and trading, capital markets underwriting, and proprietary equity research. The firm's mission hinges upon a single-minded focus on understanding and delivering financial services of the highest quality. Blaylock Robert Van LLC provides asset managers with global electronic equity trading capabilities to more than 40 worldwide exchanges and provides institutional research through its proprietary platform *ELROI - The Electronic Analyst*®, a web-based research tool for constructing and testing actionable portfolio strategies. The firm also owns SPI Strategies LLC, an investment advisory. Based in Oakland, CA, Blaylock Robert Van LLC also has offices in New York, N.Y. The firm is a member of FINRA, MSRB and SIPC.

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