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Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. Adds First Louisiana Location and Continues to Grow Branch Network

Mandeville location in New Orleans' North Shore marks the company's presence in 16 states Also unveils GetInAtBenEdwards.com, a new informational website for advisors

(ST. LOUIS, March 25, 2013) – Brokerage Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. opened an office in the New Orleans suburb of Mandeville, Louisiana with six financial advisors and a support professional, company officials announced today. The new office marks the 29th branch opening for the company and the first location in the state of Louisiana. Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. now has branches in 16 states.

Joining the Mandeville branch are the following professionals who represent almost two centuries of combined industry experience:

Allen "Al" Catalanotto, Branch Manager, Senior Vice President – Investments: Catalanotto began his securities industry career in 1975 at Merrill Lynch, and joined the A.G. Edwards branch in Mandeville in 1993.

Scott E. Foreman, Associate Vice President – Investments: Bringing almost 25 years of financial services experience, Foreman spent most of his career at the A.G. Edwards office in Mandeville.

Maurice "Mo" Provosty, Vice President – Investments: Provosty began his career in 1969 at E.F. Hutton and joined A.G. Edwards in 2005. Prior to joining the securities industry, Provosty earned his juris doctorate from Tulane Law School and practiced law for four years.

Darryl Mierl, Vice President – Investments: With nearly 30 years in the industry, Mierl began working at Merrill Lynch in 1985 before continuing his career at A.G. Edwards in 2002.

Patrick X. Garvin, Financial Consultant: Garvin brings 30 years of experience in the securities industry, mostly at A.G. Edwards' offices in New Orleans and Mandeville.

James Dombrowski, CFP®, Financial Consultant: Dombrowski joined A.G. Edwards in 2000 as a financial advisor. Previously, he played professional football for the New Orleans Saints for 11 years.

Also coming aboard as a senior registered financial associate to help the advisors with their client service responsibilities is Karen Fangue. She has more than 20 years of industry experience, having joined A.G. Edwards in 1992. She has worked with Catalanotto since 1994.

All are joining from Wells Fargo Advisors, which had taken over Wachovia Securities after Wachovia had acquired A.G. Edwards in 2007.

"We're thrilled to have such an experienced group of industry professionals introduce the Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. brand of client service to investors in the greater New Orleans area," said Benjamin F. (Tad) Edwards IV, founder, chairman, and CEO of the St. Louis-based brokerage firm. "We've been opening branches for a little over three years now, and the advisors I meet with continue to be impressed with the independent, entrepreneurial feel of our firm, combined with the breadth and depth of our product service offerings."

GetInAtBenEdwards.com

In addition to the new branch location and expansion into Louisiana, the company also unveiled a new web site for financial advisors, <u>GetInAtBenEdwards.com</u>, which provides an overview of the company geared toward financial advisors.

"We've found that advisors considering a move to another firm do their due diligence on culture, product and service offerings, and the transfer experience of others before reaching out to the firm in question," said Marty Altenberger, senior vice president, director of branch services and regional manager. "We felt it was important to put much of that information online and in one place to help with that process."

The site includes advisor insights about several of the distinguishing qualities of the firm. "We're building a solid organization based on our client-first philosophy that offers what many advisors are seeking – freedom to serve their clients in a manner that best meets their clients' financial goals and objectives," said Altenberger.

About Benjamin F. Edwards & Co.

With a tagline of "Investments for Generations" and a company logo anchored by the Edwards crest, Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. is headquartered in St. Louis, Mo. The firm was founded in 2008 by Benjamin F. (Tad) Edwards IV, the great-grandson of Albert Gallatin Edwards, the founder of brokerage firm A.G. Edwards. Currently, the firm has 29 branches in 16 states and more than 250 employees.

A subsidiary of Benjamin Edwards, Inc., Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. is a full-service brokerage and a Registered Investment Adviser, which offers a wide array of financial products and advisory services to its clients and financial consultants. For more information about Benjamin F. Edwards & Co., please visit the firm's corporate website, benjaminfedwards.com, GetInAtBenEdwards.com for advisors, or follow the company on Twitter (Twitter.com/GrowWithBFEC).