

**The Retirement Income Industry Association Announces
Appointment of Stephen Mitchell as Acting Chief Operating Officer**

*Experienced Executive to Focus on Growth and Management
of Multiple Committee Activities*

BOSTON, MA- July 14, 2008- The Retirement Income Industry Association (RIIA) today announced that Stephen Mitchell will assume the duties of acting Chief Operating Officer of the organization.

Until recently, Mitchell served as Director of Participant Communications, Investor Education, Planning and Advice Services for the Retirement Group at Merrill Lynch. In that role, he was responsible for the Merrill Lynch Advice Access and Merrill Lynch Retirement Income Services.

“We are thrilled that Steve has agreed to take on such a major set of responsibilities at RIIA,” said RIIA Chairman and Executive Director, Francois Gadenne. “Steve’s talent, experience and vision will be instrumental in helping to guide RIIA’s long-range growth objectives.”

As COO, Mitchell will be responsible for the day-to-day management of RIIA’s various committees, including Membership, Research, Communications, Education, Methodologies, Programs and Compliance. “I’m excited about this opportunity to help structure the work underway at RIIA in many areas of importance to the entire retirement income industry,” said Mitchell. “RIIA’s multiple initiatives are benefiting its members ‘across the silos’ in accordance with its mandate to identify the critical questions that must be answered to create retirement security in the U.S.”

About the Retirement Income Industry Association

RIIA (www.riia-usa.org) is the premier, national, not-for-profit organization whose members are defining the future of retirement security in the United States. RIIA provides a non-biased forum for sharing information, strategies and research which involve the leading companies in the industry, academia, researchers and professional services firms. The organization offers unprecedented opportunities for networking and accessing the best minds that are addressing the challenges in creating a secure retirement for millions of Americans.

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