



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Lawrence C. Manson, Jr. Returns to NexGen Full-Time and Refocuses the Firm's Strategy**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—January 1, 2008—NexGen Strategic Advisors (**NSA**) announced today that Lawrence C. Manson, Jr. returns to NSA and its affiliate, NexGen Strategic Investors (**NSI**) after spending a year at Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC as Co-Head of their Merchant Banking Group where the goal was to provide enterprise level advice to community banks and their corporate clients. With a desire to return to his entrepreneurial roots, Larry resigned to pursue the same audience with a narrower strategy and currently serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NSA and NSI.

“My vision for NexGen is to build the firm into a niche provider of financial advisory services and investment advice to community banks and their corporate clients,” said Larry. “While at Performance Trust, I realized that community banks have the first mover advantage with the middle-market and small business. At NexGen, our goal is to help community banks gain, maintain and expand those relationships by providing value-added financial advisory services to their best corporate clients and stress the importance of building around their existing banking relationships. We also hope to provide innovative and creative CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) solutions that not only build affordable homes but also create jobs while not requiring the community bank to reduce its return expectations nor increase its risk profile without adequate compensation.”

Larry has more than 26 years of business experience including more than 20 years of middle-market private equity investment experience. During late 2006 and 2007, Larry served as Managing Director and Co-Head of the Merchant Banking Group of Performance Trust Capital Partners, LLC while continuing to lead the NexGen entities, advisory and investment firms, which he founded prior to 1997 to provide advice and capital to middle-market companies, respectively. In addition, during his career he has served in several leadership roles with several other middle-market private equity firms such as Foundation Equity Investors, LLC, PENMAN Partners and Prudential-Bache Interfunding, an affiliate of the former Prudential-Bache Securities, Inc. Larry was a founding partner of each of these firms other than Prudential-Bache Interfunding.

#### **About NexGen Strategic Advisors**

NSA assists both private and public companies in meeting their strategic and financial objectives by offering a selective range of services. Specifically, NSA targets community banks and their middle-market corporate clients. Success in providing advice and transaction execution requires vision, commitment, integrity, teamwork and experience. The NSA team combines these elements to create value for their clients.

NSA advises clients from the early stages of tactical, strategic and financial planning to the final implementation of these strategies and commits to a consistently high level of service to accelerate the achievement of these strategies.

**About NexGen Strategic Investors**

NSI has developed several proprietary investment products for a range of institutional investors, including community banks. Specifically, NSI is in the process of launching a fund for community banks which should provide financial institutions with geographic and risk diversification, high relative returns for comparable risk and affordable housing and job creation initiatives with a primary objective of community development.

**Media Contact:**

NexGen Capital Partners

Mary Pembroke Dwyer

Senior Managing Director

202.553.7265

[mpembroke@nexgencp.com](mailto:mpembroke@nexgencp.com)

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