



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Gerard J. Buccino, a former Executive Vice President with Mid America Bank, Joins NexGen Council of Senior Advisors**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—June 22, 2008—NexGen Strategic Advisors (**NSA**) announced today that Gerard J. Buccino has agreed to serve as a Senior Advisor to the firm and chair the investment committee for the NexGen CRA Fund I, L.P. (**Fund**), a fund sponsored by NexGen Strategic Investors (**NSI**), an affiliate of NSA.

"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 Lawrence C. Manson, Jr., Senior Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NSA and NSI. "An executive, like Gerard, brings a wealth of business and community banking experience that we hope to leverage as we build NexGen. One of our strategic objectives is to provide innovative and creative CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) solutions to community banks that create affordable housing units and jobs while increasing the yield expectations and improving the risk/return profile of such investments. I believe that our CRA fund achieves those objectives."

Gerard has more than 25 years of business experience including more than 17 years in community banking and six years in public accounting. From 1990 to 2007, Gerard served MAF Bancorp, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary Mid America Bank, fsb, an \$11 billion bank in various capacities from Senior Vice President and Corporate Controller to Executive Vice President, Risk Management. As the senior financial and accounting executive for the bank, he was responsible for the management of, among other things: (i) the balance sheet, including execution of investment and funding activities, (ii) monthly ALCO process and reporting, including projected earnings and balance sheet portfolios based on business unit plans and interest rates, (iii) regulatory interest-rate risk levels and (iv) a \$2.0 billion investment portfolio as Chief Investment Officer. Other investment portfolio duties included designing the monitoring platform, reporting capabilities for investment portfolio related to credit, duration and convexity and executing all trades.

#### **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.

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