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- Richard Lockridge, *Partner,*
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- Mark Mathers, *Director of Investments,*
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- Mike Bates, *Trustee,*
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OMAHA POLICE AND FIRE
RETIREMENT SYSEYM

Inaugural
**GREAT PLAINS
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
RETIREMENT SYSTEMS
Forum**

November 13-14, 2007

*Marriott Country Club Plaza
Kansas City, MO*

Designed for

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Michael L. Fitzgerald,
State Treasurer,
STATE OF IOWA



Sarah Steelman,
State Treasurer,
STATE OF MISSOURI



Kelly Schmidt, *State Treasurer,*
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA



Bill Skaggs, *Mayor Pro Tem,*
KANSAS CITY, and *Trustee,*
KANSAS CITY EMPLOYEES
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Cindy Shattuck,
Director & CEO,

OKLAHOMA MUNICIPAL
RETIREMENT FUND

Dear Colleague,

It is our pleasure to introduce a dynamic new addition to IMN's well-known roster of specialized regional conferences for public employee retirement managers. The Great Plains Public Employee Retirement Systems (PERS) Forum contains a full program of timely panel topics, speakers and networking opportunities designed for public fund managers based in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Running November 13-14 at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, MO, the Great Plains PERS Forum will feature unparalleled educational and networking opportunities for public fund trustees, investment officers and pension consultants on a regional basis. The forum will follow an established and well-received format, which involves a day-and-a-half of intensive programming for both introductory and advanced levels of training, with networking opportunities for all participants.

The program has been designed with the input of a prestigious nine member Advisory Board, all based in the Great Plains and many of whom will be featured speakers at the Forum. The panels should prove of interest to state, local and municipal public plan representatives, who welcome a focus on issues of both regional and national concern through panels of their peers. Finally, expect major representation from the state plans in these locations, a result of IMN's unique relationships with the largest and most influential public plans in the Great Plains region.

The states of the Great Plains region have much experience to draw upon when determining domestic and international investing strategies, and in several areas they have been on the cutting edge, including non-market cap weighted indexes, defined contribution retirement plans and socially responsible investing (SRI). Attendees will discuss various strategies for allocation across both traditional and newer asset classes.

Pension investment officers, trustees, money managers and consultants will also be available to discuss the latest trends involving diversification and returns and what they see on the horizon for their equity allocations.

We look forward to seeing you in Kansas City.

Sincerely,

David M. Hoffman *Todd V. Middlebrook*

Dave Hoffman
Vice President and Producer
Information Management
Network

Todd Middlebrook
Managing Director
Information Management
Network

Agenda

Day One Tuesday, November 13, 2007

8:00 *Registration and Continental Breakfast*
8:40 **WELCOME REMARKS**
Speaker:
Bill Skaggs, *Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman, KANSAS CITY* and
Trustee, KANSAS CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

8:50 *Chairman's Opening Remarks*
9:00 **OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

A leading economist will offer insights into the economic forces impacting the Great Plains region, with an outlook for 2008. New businesses and industry trends, developments in transportation, distribution of local commodities and emerging employment patterns will be discussed.

9:45 **PENSIONS EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE**
Pension executives from the Great Plains region will discuss significant issues facing public retirement funds and share insights into their own plans' unique challenges. A cross section of states and size funds will be represented.

- Trends and patterns in asset allocation
- Selecting and integrating outsourced advisory and investment staff
- Benchmarking and performance evaluation

Panelists:
Connie Flanagan, *Fiscal and Investment Officer,*
NORTH DAKOTA STATE INVESTMENT BOARD
Mark Mathers, *Director of Investments,*
MISSOURI STATE TREASURY

10:30 *Refreshment Break*

10:45 **INVESTING IN EQUITIES IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY**
Globalization has been a driving force in shaping equity investments as domestic companies benefit from international business and new equity markets open. Investment strategists have different opinions and arguments about where to find tomorrow's opportunities and those opinions will form the basis of the discussion.

- What are the entry and exit points for global equities?
- What portion of assets are funds allocating to equities?
- A look at South America, Europe and Asia.
- Is fixed income an option for global investing?
- Emerging markets: Brazil, Russia, India and China

Moderator:
Christopher Reilly, *Senior Investment Analyst,*
ENNIS KNUPP AND ASSOCIATES

Panelists:
Barry Bryant, *Vice President,* **DAHAB ASSOCIATES**
Christina Danner, *Senior Consultant,*
DEMARCHE ASSOCIATES INC.
Steve Frantz, *Chief Investment Officer,*
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA

11:30 **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION, FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY PART I PRESENTER:**
TBA, **SCOTT AND SCOTT LLC**

12:15 *Lunch*

1:30 **ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS OVERVIEW**
Alternatives can be defined as anything that can't be classified as equities or fixed income. Pension funds adopt new alternative asset classes at different paces. Some analysts believe that returns in the future will be based mainly on alternative asset allocations, so it is important to evaluate new opportunities for diversified return sources.

- Due diligence for new alternative asset classes
- Writing policies that safely allow for the integration of new alternative asset classes
- Options in alternatives: hedge funds, infrastructure, commodities, private equity and more

Panelists:
Jason Pulos, *Director,* **ASSET CONSULTING GROUP INC**
Don Chambers, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees,*
OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTERS PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM

2:15 **THE EVOLVING ENERGY MARKET: INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ETHANOL**
The economies of the Great Plains states benefit from both traditional energy sources, such as oil, and alternative energy sources, including ethanol. This session will provide an overview of the investment opportunities that are closely tied to the region.

- Commodities: oil and agriculture
- Socially responsible investing (SRI): ethanol as an alternative energy source
- Venture capital: investing in ethanol production
- Real return investing: timberland and agricultural land

3:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION, FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY PART II: MONITORING SECURITIES CLASS ACTION LITIGATION**
Panelists:
Jay Stoffel, *Executive Director,*
DULUTH TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSOCIATION
Karen H. Riebel, **LOCKRIDGE, GRINDAL, NAUEN, P.L.L.P.**
TBA, **SCOTT AND SCOTT LLC**

3:45 *Refreshment Break*

4:00 **130/30 STRATEGIES: A STEP INTO ABSOLUTE RETURN INVESTING**
Some investors believe the long-only constraint is an unnecessary limitation for money managers, based on the rationale that someone who is skilled at recognizing undervalued companies may be equally skilled in identifying overvalued companies for shorting opportunities.

- Relaxing the long-only constraint
- Choosing the appropriate benchmark for a 130/30 strategy
- Comparing 130/30 to other parameters (120/20, 140/40)

Panelists:
Rick Boersma, *Retirement Systems Executive Officer,*
KANSAS CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
David Bomberger, *State Investment Officer,*
NEBRASKA STATE INVESTMENT COUNCIL

4:45 HEDGE FUNDS: DEFINING A NEW BASKET OF INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

When considering investing in hedge funds, institutional investors may want to consider just what new strategies and investments they involve. While proprietary information is essential to some hedge fund investment strategies, some investors are concerned about the lack of transparency. This session breaks down how to conduct due diligence and ask the need-to-know questions in analyzing the possibility of allocating money to hedge funds.

- What are the opportunities for implementing a hedge fund strategy?

- How has the view of hedge fund risks changed in recent months?
- How do boutiques compare with older and larger financial companies?
- How do funds practice due diligence in reviewing hedge funds' risk control systems?

Speaker:

Michael Bates, *Trustee*, OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTERS PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM

5:30

End of Day 1 / Cocktail Hour

Day Two Wednesday, November 14, 2007

7:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

8:00 *Chairperson's Recap*

8:15 TREASURERS ROUNDTABLE: POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND MORE

A panel of treasurers will discuss best practices and new challenges in investment policy and practices for their jurisdictions. Internal governance issues as well as external policy issues will be discussed.

- The "terror free" bills in multiple states
- Investing private equity money into local entrepreneurial ventures
- Governance structures: management, governing or policy boards

Panelists:

Michael L. Fitzgerald, *State Treasurer*, STATE OF IOWA
Sarah Steelman, *State Treasurer*, STATE OF MISSOURI
Kelly Schmidt, *State Treasurer*, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

9:00 NON-MARKET CAP WEIGHTED INDEXES VERSUS TRADITIONAL BENCHMARKS

In 2005, the \$6 billion South Dakota Retirement System in Sioux Falls put \$100 million into a non-traditionally weighted index fund, making it the first institutional investor to invest in a fundamental index. Fundamental indexing is designed to select stocks based on factors other than market cap, such as size, book value and P&L, with a rules-based selection process that competes with traditional index funds for low transaction costs.

- Does fundamental indexing bring increased risk?
- What are the benchmarks by which to measure a fundamental index?
- Which attributes or fundamental characteristics are being used in this new indexing paradigm?
- How have non-market cap weighted indexes evolved since being introduced in 2005?

9:45 THE ROLE OF INVESTMENT BANKS IN PENSION MANAGEMENT

An important function of plan sponsors involves choosing and monitoring their custodians. To ensure that plans are getting the most value out of their banks, areas must be considered, from monitoring of assets to access and record keeping.

- What accounting practices are required for different alternative asset classes?
- How might a custodian's documentation and reporting capabilities assist your fund?

- What is a custodian's role in fiduciary responsibility, monitoring corporate governance and shareholder litigation?

Panelists:

Joseph P Jurich, *Security Analyst II*,
NEBRASKA STATE INVESTMENT COUNCIL

10:30

Refreshment Break

10:45

EXECUTIVE PARACHUTES AND OPTIONS PACKAGES: HOW THEY HURT YOUR PLAN

Presenter:

Richard A. Lockridge,
LOCKRIDGE, GRINDAL, NAUEN P.L.L.P.

11:30

AN ANALYSIS OF DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) PLANS

DC retirement plans such as 401(k)s shift the burden of gaining adequate returns from the plan sponsor to the beneficiaries. Plan sponsors retain some responsibilities, such as choosing service providers who will offer employees investment options that are at once understandable and sophisticated enough to provide needed returns. A major concern is protecting employees from unnecessary management fees that eat into the returns that are needed in retirement.

- What are the responsibilities of a DC plan administrator?
- Do DC investors miss out on any high-return investment opportunities that institutional investors benefit from?
- How to get control over 401(k) plan fees and costs
- Lessons from Nebraska: A case study in moving away from DC plans

Moderator:

Barry Bryant, *Vice President*, DAHAB ASSOCIATES

Panelists:

William Fonia, *Senior Vice President*, AON CONSULTING

Jolynn Winkler, *Investment Analyst*,
NEBRASKA STATE INVESTMENT COUNCIL

Jonathan Barry Forman, *Vice Chair*, OKLAHOMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
Alfred P. Murrah Professor of Law, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF LAW

12:15

Conference concludes

Corporate Sponsors

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SCOTT+SCOTT, LLP www.scott-scott.com, is a national law firm headquartered in Connecticut with additional offices in Ohio, New York City and California. The firm represents institutional investors, as well as individuals, in securities class and stockholder derivative actions. Scott and Scott has successfully prosecuted some of the largest and most significant securities and related class action lawsuits since the passage of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, recovering billions of dollars and achieving precedent-setting corporate governance reforms on behalf of investors.

How can Scott+Scott assist institutional investors who experience significant portfolio losses as a result of corporate fraud?

To assist institutional investors in recouping portfolio losses related to their U.S. investments, Scott+Scott monitors and provides periodic reports assessing the portfolio's holdings using Scott+Scott's web-based proprietary software. At no cost to

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For more information about Scott+Scott and its institutional investor services, please contact:

David R. Scott, Esq.

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Law Firm



LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.

EFFECTIVE, EXPERIENCED SECURITIES REPRESENTATION

Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P., a Minneapolis-based law firm with an office in Washington, D.C., has extensive experience in both state and federal courts across the country and has earned a reputation for aggressive, cost-effective representation. It has sophisticated expertise in multi-million dollar securities and antitrust class actions, and other complex civil litigation involving multiple defendants and thousands of class members. The firm has led or been actively involved in many of the largest and

most successful securities cases in the country. Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P. has a national reputation as one of the premier firms representing plaintiffs in complex class action litigation.

Our securities attorneys are dedicated to fighting for the rights of shareholders and employee stock plan participants. We employ an exhaustive knowledge of the federal securities laws, meticulous attention to detail, and excellence in oral and written advocacy on behalf of our clients. We have recovered millions of dollars for stock owners in the wake of corporate misrepresentations regarding the financial future of publicly held companies engaged in businesses ranging from the manufacture and distribution of pharmaceuticals to the design and manufacture of children's toys.

Changes in federal laws governing the conduct of corporate management and the recent rash of corporate misdeeds have made the need for skilled, extremely knowledgeable and experienced counsel in matters involving securities fraud more imperative than ever. The firm is well known for its aggressive, fast-paced approach to class action securities litigation. Partners Richard A. Lockridge, Gregg M. Fishbein and Karen Hanson Riebel have extensive experience in this area.

Silver



FIRST NATIONAL BANK is a subsidiary of First National of Nebraska, a multi-state holding company located in the heart of downtown Omaha. First National has been serving Omaha and surrounding communities for 150 years. First National of Nebraska and its affiliates have over \$17 billion in managed assets and 7,500 employees, ranking as one of the fifty largest banks in the United States. First National and its affiliates serve over 6.6 million customers in all 50 states, with more than 90 banking locations in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Texas. First National Bank's Wealth Management Group offers financial planning services that are a tool

to ensure the accumulation and preservation of wealth.

The Retirement Plan Services team is committed to offering full service retirement programs to clients; this is a core part of our corporate banking business and will remain that way into the future. With 'Superior Service' as a core value of our institution, we believe local service by First National Bank employees delivers value to our customers that other providers can't offer.

Over the past five years, increasing consolidation through acquisition of plan service providers has reduced the number of providers who administer corporate retirement plans. During that time, we have spent over \$15 million on technology, added additional full time employees, and continue to upgrade our platform, products and services.

First Investment Group's Institutional Investment Management team believes in the development of long-term client relationships by delivering superior service. The team works with numerous public entities to deliver above average returns with below average risk.

STATE STREET
GLOBAL ADVISORS | SSGA

STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS (SSGA) is a global leader in providing institutional investment management services to clients world-wide. Our diverse client base within the institutional, sub-advised and intermediary marketplaces includes corporate, public funds, endowments and foundations and third party distributors.

SSGA has been providing investment management services for nearly three decades and manages more than 290 investment strategies. Strategies are managed across all asset classes including equity, fixed income, currency, real estate

and absolute return and across the risk spectrum including indexed, enhanced, and active. In addition to being a leading beta provider, SSGA has significantly expanded its alpha generation capabilities with a wide range of active strategies

Our continued focus on client needs and their demand for new products has spurred the creation of a full spectrum of investment solutions. This evolution is marked by the substantial increase in our Active business (\$202 billion in assets under management as of 12/31/06), which now represents 46% of new business.

Exhibitor



GLOBAL TRANSITION SOLUTIONS (GTS) is an independent transition management and brokerage consultant that saves pension plans more than 60% off industry average transition execution costs. GTS' independent, consultant driven, fiduciary approach eliminates all conflicts of interest, applies quantitative data and science to broker selection, and uses a real time trade oversight process to ensure that traders are monitored, that your trades are executed as best as they possibly can be, and that fiduciary exposure of trustees is virtually eliminated. In an industry barely a decade old, our team represents more than 125 years of industry experience and we have serviced more than 150 plan sponsors. As more and more pension fund trustees and investment staff come to recognize the conflicts of interest and unnecessary costs associated with transitions, GTS is leading the way in ushering in a new era of transparency to the transition industry.

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About the Venue

KANSAS CITY MARRIOTT COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA

4445 Main Street Kansas City, MO 64111 USA

Phone: (816) 531-3000

Fax: (816) 531-3007

Website: <http://marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcipl-kansas-city-marriott-country-club-plaza/>

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* Early Bird rate is on or before October 12, 2007

** Late rate is on or after November 2, 2007

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Service Providers who wish to register for this event, may call Bridget Maroney on 212/224-3304 or email bmaroney@imn.org

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Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza is located at 4445 Main Street Kansas City, MO 64111 USA Phone: (816) 531-3000 Fax: (816) 531-3007 Website: <http://marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcpl-kansas-city-marriott-country-club-plaza/>

If you plan to stay at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza you must make your reservations directly with the hotels by calling (816) 531-3000 and asking for "IMN's **GREAT PLAINS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FORUM**" group rate. To secure reservations at the group rate, you must make your reservations 4 weeks in advance. Rooms are subject to availability.

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITS:

In addition to the main program, a limited number of table-top exhibits will be open during the course of the **GREAT PLAINS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FORUM**. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to promote products and services of special interest to the attendees. For more information, please call Christopher P. Skroupa at (212) 901-0508 or cskroupa@imn.org

www.imn.org/etm978/m/
(Agenda Is Updated Daily Online)



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New York, NY 10003

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**FEATURING AN
OUTSTANDING SPEAKER
FACULTY INCLUDING:**

William Fornia,
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Jason Pulos, Director,
ASSET CONSULTING GROUP INC.

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