

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**R.J. O'BRIEN APPOINTS KAREN NORTHUP
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

CHICAGO, March 26, 2007 -- R.J. O'Brien and Associates, Inc. (RJO), the nation's largest independent futures brokerage, announced today that it has promoted Karen Northup to the role of chief operating officer.

"RJO is delighted to announce Karen's promotion to the role of chief operating officer," said Gerald F. Corcoran, CEO. "Karen is a proven asset to the company, and we are confident that she will advance RJO's operational best practices and execute her new responsibilities with her usual dedication to excellence."

Ms. Northup has been RJO's senior vice president of operations since 2004. She assumed responsibility for the firm's Chicago trading operations in 2006, and also runs operations for R.J. O'Brien Alternative Asset Management, Inc.

Ms. Northup worked for Citadel Investment Group's corporate strategy and development group prior to joining RJO. Earlier in her career, she was a principal in the financial institutions group at A.T. Kearney and also worked at Morgan Stanley, where she led IT development of the firm's global custody business. Ms. Northup earned an MBA from the University of Chicago and a BA from Bowdoin College.

About R.J. O'Brien

R.J. O'Brien is the largest independent futures brokerage in the United States. A privately owned Futures Commission Merchant (FCM), RJO is also one of the oldest futures brokerage firms, dating to 1914. RJO is a founding member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and is a full clearing member of: the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT); the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX and COMEX divisions); the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT); Eurex AG; Eurex US; EuronextLIFFE; and Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), is on track to becoming a full clearing member of the Sydney Futures Exchange (SFE) during 2007. RJO offers the latest in order entry technology coupled with 24-hour execution and clearing on every futures exchange worldwide. RJO services a nationwide network of more than 250 introducing brokers and some of the world's largest financial, industrial and agricultural institutions. For further information, please visit www.rjobrien.com.

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