

For Immediate Release:
Media Contact:

May 26, 2000
Hauser/Bragg Communications
Jennifer Hauser, 312.595.1600, x223
Jhauser@HauserBragg.com

**LEADING FCM ANNOUNCES
EXECUTIVE ADVANCEMENTS**

R. J. O'Brien Names New CEO and President

CHICAGO – R. J. O'Brien & Associates Inc. (RJO), a leading futures commission merchant, is pleased to announce the advancements of Gerald Corcoran to CEO; Colleen Mitchell to president; John W. O'Brien to chairman; Robert J. O'Brien, Jr. to vice chairman; and Robert J. O'Brien, Sr. to chairman emeritus, effective June 1, 2000.

A founding member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, RJO has a strong heritage of recognizing executive talents and visions and then cultivating them for leadership roles within the firm. The new appointments represent the continuation of this legacy in what is widely recognized as one of the best managed FCM's in the industry.

John W. O'Brien served as chief executive officer for RJO since 1987 and has worked within the firm at nearly every capacity. O'Brien has been a director since 1980 and has extensive trading experience. As chairman, O'Brien will take on a more focused role in developing long-term corporate strategy.

"The winds of change are everywhere in the commodities futures industry," says O'Brien. "This year I turned 45, and it dawned on me that change is what life is about. In the business world, and as leaders, it takes a concerted effort to bring about change in order to incite intellectual, physical and spiritual growth. These advancements will keep RJO fresh and at the forefront of our industry."

Gerald Corcoran was chief financial officer and chief operating officer for RJO since 1987. A former member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Corcoran has served on several committees at the Exchange. As CEO, Corcoran will continue the grand RJO tradition of personal service integrated with the technology that is rapidly changing the industry. Corcoran formerly was controller for the Chicago Sun-Times, the nation's 7th largest daily newspaper.

"With Gerry's advancement, we're loudly making a statement that RJO will continue at the forefront of industry technology," says O'Brien. "Gerry is an individual who will hold true to the human relationship spirit that has been the cornerstone of our business since 1914."

Robert J. O'Brien, Jr. was president of RJO since 1975 and advances to vice chairman. With extensive market and trading experience, O'Brien has been a member of the CME since 1972. Additionally, he has served on various Exchange committees including the Clearing House Committee.

Colleen Mitchell moves forward from vice president to president. Formerly, Mitchell served as vice president for Terra Nova Trading. "Colleen is a gifted person with humble intellectual brilliance and a special heart and soul," says O'Brien. "In Colleen's appointment, we are formally recognizing a leadership and talent that has quickly taken root in the firm during her term as vice president."

Eighty-two year old Robert O'Brien advances from chairman to chairman emeritus. Widely recognized as promoting the development and success of RJO and the industry at large, Robert J. O'Brien has served as a Director of RJO since 1966 and is a retired chairman of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Mr. O'Brien also served for two years as a director of the International Monetary Market, a division of the CME, and has served on various Exchange committees, including the Business Conduct, Rules, Membership and Executive Committees.

"RJO continues to grow and prosper in the ever changing Futures Industry," says Gerald Corcoran. "I am profoundly honored to be named CEO of this great firm. We are well positioned to take advantage of the revolutionary changes now occurring in our industry. I am confident that our investment in technology coupled with our dedicated hands-on personal service will generate tremendous value to both our customers and our shareholders."

Established in 1914, R. J. O'Brien & Associates Inc. is a Chicago based futures commission merchant and the oldest member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. RJO clears regulated futures trades for both introducing brokers and institutional clients in all segments of the industry and is a leader in order routing technology. With a large focus on agricultural futures, RJO is a market share leader in most agricultural products listed at the CME and CBOT. The company offers the highest level of professional service and is widely recognized as one of the best managed FCM's in the futures industry.

For information on RJO, please contact Mary Ellen Scanlin at 312.408.4710.

###