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NEWS

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**TOP-RANKED RESTAURANT, LODGING, AND GAMING RESEARCH TEAM
JOINS WEDBUSH MORGAN SECURITIES**

LOS ANGELES, CA (May 6, 2009) -- Wedbush Morgan Securities, the largest securities firm and investment bank headquartered on the West Coast, has hired a highly recognized equity research team led by Rachael Rothman to cover restaurant, gaming, lodging, and leisure companies. The team was most recently at Merrill Lynch.

Rothman and her team have been recognized with numerous accolades: selected to the 2008 *Institutional Investor* All-American Research Team in the restaurant sector, recognized by *Wall Street Journal's* Best on the Street survey, and ranked #1 in Earnings Estimate Accuracy across all industries by *Forbes/Starmine* in 2007.

"We couldn't be more pleased that Rachael and her colleagues have chosen to join our consumer research team. This hire is a perfect example of Wedbush's desire to aggressively grow its equities business. We see a tremendous opportunity right now to increase and improve services to our clients by adding high caliber professionals like Rachael." said Sheri Kaiserman, Head of Equities at Wedbush Morgan Securities.

Mark D. Benson, Director of Research added, "The addition of Rachael and her team will bring the total number of publishing analysts at Wedbush to more than 30, and the firm looks to continue to expand its research platform, bringing on additional highly accomplished analysts in consumer/retail, technology, entertainment/media, industrial/clean tech, and life sciences."

Rothman spent seven years at Merrill Lynch, the most recent four years as a senior analyst. Prior to her time as a senior analyst, Rachael worked as part of an II ranked team covering the gaming, lodging and leisure industries at Merrill. Prior to that, she spent two years as part of the gaming and lodging team at Morgan Stanley. Rachael holds a B.A. from Bates College, a Master's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Cornell University and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Virginia. Rachael is also a CFA charter holder.

Companies she recently covered include: McDonald's (MCD), Yum Brands (YUM), Jack in the Box (JACK), CKE Restaurants (CKR), Las Vegas Sands (LVS), International Game Technology (IGT), Wynn Resorts (WYNN), MGM Mirage (MGM), and others.

Amanda Bryant comes to Wedbush from Merrill where she was responsible for coverage of the lodging and leisure industries. Prior to becoming a senior analyst, Amanda was an analyst and lead associate supporting an II ranked gaming, lodging, and leisure team. Amanda holds a B.S. from the College of Charleston, South Carolina and an M.S. in Finance, Investment and Banking from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Amanda is also a CFA charter holder.

Michael Sang will be supporting the team's efforts in the restaurant sector. He was most recently at Merrill where he worked with Rachael as the lead associate supporting coverage of the restaurant sector. Michael was previously with PricewaterhouseCoopers where he was a Senior Associate in the Banking and Capital Markets Assurance Practice. Michael holds a B.S. in Management from Binghamton University.

Yinan Zhao will be supporting the team's efforts in the gaming sector and most recently supported Rachael as an associate in this sector at Merrill. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University.

The team will be based in the New York City offices of Wedbush Morgan Securities.

About Wedbush Morgan Securities

Founded in 1955, Wedbush Morgan Securities is a leading financial services and investment firm that provides private and institutional brokerage, correspondent clearing, investment banking, equities research, public finance, fixed income sales and trading, and asset management to individual, institutional and issuing clients. Headquartered in Los Angeles, with over 80 sales offices and over 100 correspondent offices nationwide, Wedbush focuses on client financial safety, continuity, and advanced technology.

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