



For Immediate Release

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Rochester-Based Bernardi & Russo LLP Merges with Freed Maxick & Battaglia, PC

Rochester, NY – September 7, 2007 – A merger between the Rochester based CPA firm of Bernardi & Russo LLP and the regional CPA firm of Freed Maxick & Battaglia, PC has been announced. The merged firms will practice as Freed Maxick & Battaglia, CPAs. The staff in Rochester will consist of 21 employees, more than doubling the firm's Rochester-based workforce. The merger puts Freed Maxick & Battaglia ahead of schedule to reach its goal of 30 Rochester-based employees by the end of 2008. The firm will now employ over 225 professional and administrative staff across Rochester, Batavia and Buffalo (headquarters). The merger also provides new and expanded office space for Freed Maxick & Battaglia's Rochester operations, which will be re-located to Bernardi & Russo's existing offices at the Meridian Centre Office Park in Brighton

"We were both looking for an opportunity to expand our talent and capacity to serve clients in Rochester," says Robert Glaser, CPA, managing director of Freed Maxick & Battaglia. "We had a prior working relationship with Bernardi & Russo and this merger is a natural expansion of that relationship. We look forward to working with many new outstanding clients." Glaser said.

Mike Russo, CPA, partner of Bernardi & Russo noted "There was great chemistry between our firms when we participated in prior joint engagements. Both firms were committed to providing excellent client service and an enjoyable, professional working environment for employees."

David Bernardi, CPA, managing partner of Bernardi & Russo said "The merger allows us a greater range of services to provide for our clients, while still maintaining the responsiveness that they have come to expect. Furthermore, the merger provides excellent career growth opportunities for employees."



Freed Maxick & Battaglia, PC
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It is the Firm's second merger since 1998, when Batavia-based Battaglia Andrews & Moag, PC joined the Firm. In 2000, Freed Maxick & Battaglia formed an alternative practice structure with RSM McGladrey, the 5th largest accounting firm in the US. Although separate and independent legal entities, the alternative practice structure enables Freed Maxick & Battaglia, a licensed CPA firm that provides attest services, and RSM McGladrey, Inc., a business services company that provides non-attest tax and consulting services, to work together to serve the business needs of mid-sized companies.

About Freed Maxick & Battaglia, CPAs

Freed Maxick & Battaglia, CPAs is the largest public accounting firm in Upstate New York and a Top 100 Firm in the U.S, according to *Inside Public Accounting*, an independent industry trade publication. Freed Maxick & Battaglia CPAs has over 225 professional and administrative staff and provides audit, tax and consulting services to middle-market companies with multiple-state and international operations. The Firm specializes in a variety of practice areas including healthcare, SEC companies, manufacturing, agribusiness, real estate and service businesses. Offices are in Buffalo, NY (headquarters), Batavia, NY and Rochester, NY. Visit www.freedmaxick.com.

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