

Ben A. Plotkin
Executive Vice President,
Stifel, Nicolaus & Company and Keefe, Bruyette & Woods
Vice Chairman, Stifel Financial Corporation

Mr. Plotkin joined Ryan Beck & Co., a predecessor to Stifel Nicolaus, as an investment banker in 1987. With over 30 years of experience in advising Financial Institutions, he frequently is called upon to provide strategic advice to financial institutions and governmental agencies, including the United States Department of the Treasury and the FDIC. Mr. Plotkin served as Chairman and CEO of Ryan Beck for over 10 years. At the end of 2006, Ryan Beck had over 1000 employees and annual revenues of approximately \$250 million.

In early 2007, Mr. Plotkin announced the merger of two strong regional broker-dealers, Ryan Beck and Stifel Nicolaus, resulting in one of the largest national broker-dealers and advisory firms. Mr. Plotkin serves as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Stifel Financial Corporation, the NYSE listed parent of Stifel Nicolaus (Symbol: SF). He also serves as Executive Vice President and a senior investment banker at KBW, a subsidiary of Stifel Financial. At present, Stifel Financial has a market capitalization of \$3.3 billion and approximately 6000 employees.

Prior to joining Ryan Beck, Mr. Plotkin was a senior executive and board member of a thrift holding company. As an attorney, he was formerly associated with a Washington, D.C. law firm. In his practice, he specialized in financial institution related matters including public offerings and acquisitions.

Mr. Plotkin received his Undergraduate Degree from the University of Florida. He holds a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.