

For Immediate Release

**SEC and NYSE advisor Lou Thompson joins  
Beacon Advisors in Washington, DC**

Chicago, IL, January 6, 2008 – Louis M. Thompson has joined Beacon Advisors, Inc. as a Partner. An internationally recognized expert on corporate disclosure and governance and the former President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI), Thompson brings an added dimension of currency and experience to Beacon's investor and corporate communication consulting practices. His is located in the Washington, DC area.

As a Beacon Partner, Thompson will counsel publicly traded corporate clients on a full range of investor relations and communications matters including disclosure, governance, environmental and social responsibility. He also will continue to advise the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on investor relations policies and issues while serving a second term on the NYSE Euronext Individual Investor Advisory Committee.

Since his retirement from NIRI in 2006 following more than two decades as its CEO, Thompson has served as an investor relations consultant with Genesis, Inc., in Denver and has been a managing director for Kalorama Partners, a business-consulting firm founded by former SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt.

Prior to joining NIRI, Thompson was assistant White House press secretary to President Gerald R. Ford. He served as executive officer for the U.S. Command Information Office in Vietnam and as military assistant for public affairs to the Assistant Secretary of Defense. He has held executive communications positions for a number of organizations, including the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research and the National Association of Home Builders.

A former journalist and news anchor, Thompson is a monthly columnist for *Compliance Week* magazine. Thompson also serves as Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication at Iowa State University, where he received 2001 James W. Schwartz Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism and Communication.

In 2000 Thompson was the first recipient of the *IR Magazine – Barron's* lifetime achievement award in investor relations. Upon retiring from NIRI, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Barron's* recognized him for dedicated service to the practice of corporate communication and the investor relations profession.

Thompson served on the board of directors for the National Council for Economic Education and currently serves on the board of Hanley & Associates "Life is a Roadshow," a consulting firm that provides management access to institutions through non-deal roadshows.

Thompson is a former member of the Harvard University New Foundations Working Group on corporate governance. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees from Iowa State University and is a graduate of the Senior Executive Program at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

His appointment is effective immediately.

Beacon Advisors is a highly focused strategic communication consulting boutique that offers value-enhancing counsel in investor relations, corporate and crisis communication with a guarantee of engagement-long service from senior level counselors. The firm has locations in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, Denver and Cincinnati. More information on Beacon Advisors' capabilities and services is available at the firm's website ([www.beaconadvisors.us](http://www.beaconadvisors.us)).

###

Contacts:

Hud Englehart  
Beacon Advisors  
513.533.4800

Lou Thompson  
Beacon Advisors  
540.672.1136