

May 18, 2012

### **EARNEST Partners Completes "SSAE 16" Audit without Exception**

EARNEST Partners is pleased to announce its successful completion of an "SSAE 16" audit, or a Report on Controls at a Service Organization, executed by Brightline CPA and Associates, an independent and nationally recognized auditing firm.

The audit was completed in February of 2012, and the official report issued in May. Brightline identified 66 separate operational controls for its audit, which EARNEST Partners considers a comprehensive testing of both the operating effectiveness and suitability of the firm's controls. EARNEST Partners passed all 66 of those audits without exception. The areas of the firm that were tested during the audit included Physical Security, Environmental Security, Computer Operations, Information Security, System Change Control and Client Account Reconciliation.

The Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) No. 16, Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization, was finalized by the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in January 2010 and replaces SAS 70 as the industry-accepted standard for reporting on service organizations. SSAE No. 16 defines the professional standards used by a service auditor to assess the internal controls of a service organization and issue a service auditor's report.

The firm's voluntary submission to a SSAE 16 review is only one part of our ongoing process to implement effective and efficient controls.

### **About EARNEST Partners**

EARNEST Partners is an independent, employee-owned asset management firm currently advising on more than \$18 billion in assets for clients around the world. EARNEST Partners manages portfolios for more than 300 clients including corporations, government pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, jointly-trusted plans, endowments and foundations. The firm is also engaged in subadvisory relationships with a number of global financial institutions. We offer a variety of competitive equity and fixed income products across the respective market cap and duration spectrums. Our investment approach is long-term oriented and focuses on the merits of individual securities when making investment decisions. EARNEST Partners is headquartered in Atlanta, GA with additional offices in China and Brazil.

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