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**FIBA Elects New Board of Directors headed by President John Rodriguez
of Wells Fargo & Company
*"Bridging the gap in international trade finance"***

MIAMI, FL - (June 5, 2009) – The Florida International Bankers Association, FIBA, Inc. has elected its New Board of Directors headed by its new President John Rodriguez, to serve during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Nearly 200 representatives of South Florida's international financial community were present at the election and Installation ceremony, which was hosted by the Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday night. Rodriguez has served as First Vice President of FIBA for the past year and will take office on July 1st for a one-year-term, succeeding BankUnited's Ramon Usategui.

Rodriguez is Senior Vice President and division manager for Wells Fargo's Global Financial Institutions and Trade Group, which provides trade financing, factoring, foreign exchange and treasury management services to financial institutions in Mexico, Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean. He joined Wells Fargo in his current position in 2006 after spending 13 years with Wachovia Bank, where he held positions as a relationship manager, capital markets liaison, and regional manager for the correspondent banking group in Miami. He was a senior vice president for the South Florida commercial banking region before joining Wells Fargo. Prior experience included trade finance specialist, commercial lender and correspondent banking manager.

During the election ceremony, Rodriguez shared his goals for FIBA for the coming year, emphasizing the importance of "bridging the gap" in trade finance. Exports represent a key component of local and national GDP. In prior years, with the abundance of supplier credit, it is estimated that 80% of international trade was financed on "open account", with banks participating in only 20% of the export flows.

"This is no longer the case, "President-elect Rodriguez said. "Today, banks again have a critical role to play in bridging the gap between the need for financing and the availability of funds." The export credit agencies will also play an important role. In Florida, for example, FIBA is actively working with the State's economic development board (Enterprise Florida) to survey their member banks in order to better understand their product offerings and to make these available to the export community.

With far fewer banks focusing on the international trade in South Florida today, as compared to 10-15 years ago, there is a growing gap in trade financing. As more exporters are now faced with lower demand, lack of working capital, and reduced financial flexibility, smaller and medium companies are hardest hit.

The FIBA President-elect sent out an appeal to the industry banking members who were present at the election ceremony, to make a joint commitment with him to staying on track by supporting his goal of "Bridging the Gap in International Trade Finance."

“FIBA is also teaming up this year with the International Export Assistance Agency, the U.S. Department of Commerce and Enterprise Florida, in order to address the need for trade finance solutions for the export sector in Florida,” Rodriguez said. “Our goal will be to ensure that banks remain actively engaged in financing trade, promoting the utilization of the export credit agencies during this difficult period, and become more proactive in trade finance,” he added enthusiastically. Exports from throughout the United States flow through the Port of Miami, creating benefits that spread far beyond Florida.

“The Florida International Bankers Association (FIBA) has made an outstanding contribution to the emergence of the State of Florida as one of the leading global business centers of our nation. Florida boasts the second largest international banking sector in the country and this gives our state a great comparative advantage “, said Manny Mencia, Senior Vice President, International Trade and Business Development, Enterprise Florida.

"Trade finance will be the FIBA's top initiative this year," emphasized Pat Roth, FIBA's Executive Director. "In these challenging times, it is very important that we focus our energies on trade finance as a source of jobs and growth in our economy." She added that FIBA will continue to offer its traditional training, including its AML (Anti Money Laundering) Certification provided by the FIBA AML Institute, and the Annual FIBA AML Compliance Conference in February 2010.

In November, FIBA will host the FELABAN Annual Assembly, which brings together nearly 2000 senior level financial executives from 50 countries, with a primary focus on trade "This will be another opportunity to see how banks can facilitate international trade and 'bridge the gap', Roth concluded.

For more information please contact (305) 579-0086 or www.fiba.net.

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