



BARNUM
FINANCIAL
GROUP

An office of MetLife

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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**BARNUM FINANCIAL GROUP ONCE AGAIN WINS
METLIFE'S HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

- Named "MetLife Firm of The Year" for Fourth Consecutive Year in a Row -

SHELTON, CT, March 13, 2008– Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife, has once again walked away with top honors of any MetLife and New England Financial firm, having been named MetLife Firm of the Year, for the fourth consecutive year in a row; and ADG Firm of the Year the Agency Distribution Group (ADG) Top Firm of the Year for the third straight year since its inception.

In addition, the firm was also presented with an award for Financial Planning Firm of the Year for the fourth year in a row; and the Management Triskelion Award for a second year.

"MetLife holds rigorous criteria and standards for these honors that extends beyond sales achievements and includes service leadership and the highest standard of ethics. It is therefore a pleasure to recognize, once again, Barnum Financial Group and Paul Blanco," said Michael J. Vietri, executive vice president, Agency Distribution Group, MetLife. "The firm continues to exemplify MetLife's commitment to excellence in the field and in the industry."

MetLife, a leading provider of life insurance and other financial services and products, each year selects one leading firm from its MetLife and New England Financial firms nationwide. The ADG Top Firm of the Year award recognizes the highest overall firm performance in 2007 which includes profitability, revenue growth and above all, good business practices. The Financial Planning Firm of the Year honors top sales growth and performance in the area of financial planning; and the Management Triskelion Award recognizes the firm with the best, most consistent, three-year record in management and sales performance.

"At Barnum, we have continued to raise the bar and it has not gone unnoticed," stated Paul Blanco, managing director of Barnum Financial. "We can achieve so much only because of each and everyone of the associates that make up the Barnum Financial family."

Barnum Financial Group is headquartered in Shelton, CT at 6 Corporate Drive, with 28 additional offices CT, NY, NJ and NH.

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News release

In 1997, Paul Blanco took the position of managing director of the once Trumbull-based office, with a total staff of seven financial services professionals. Today, the firm employs over 270 financial services professionals, holding a retention rate of 46%, compared to the industry standard of 11%*. Barnum Financial was recently voted by the *Hartford County Business Journal* as the one of the best places work in Connecticut. For further information, please visit www.barnumfinancialgroup.com.

MetLife, is a leading provider of insurance and other financial services to millions of individual and institutional customers throughout the United States. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife, Inc. offers life insurance, annuities, automobile and homeowner's insurance and retail banking services to individuals, as well as group insurance, reinsurance and retirement and savings products and services to corporations and other institutions. Outside the U.S., the MetLife companies have direct insurance operations in Asia Pacific, Latin America and Europe. For more information, please visit www.metlife.com.

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