



BARNUM
FINANCIAL
GROUP

An office of MetLife

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jane Snaider

6 Corporate Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
203.513.6239

jsnaider@metlife.com

www.barnumfinancialgroup.com

NEWS RELEASE

BARNUM FINANCIAL GROUP NAMED #1 METLIFE OFFICE AGAIN!

- Named “MetLife Firm of the Year” for Fifth Consecutive Year in a Row -

SHELTON, CT, March 17, 2009 –Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife, has once again been named MetLife Firm of the Year, for the fifth consecutive year in a row.

Additionally, Barnum has been named the MetLife Individual Distribution Top Firm of the Year for the fourth consecutive year. 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. This award recognizes Barnum Financial Group for the highest overall firm performance in 2008 which includes profitability, revenue growth and above all, good business practices.

Michael Vietri, executive vice president, Individual Distribution stated, “Under Paul’s leadership, Barnum continues to excel and be a true leader in the communities it serves. I congratulate Barnum and the team in all that they do and wish them great success in the coming year.”

Additionally, Barnum’s progressive management strategies anchor the firm in the economic turmoil individuals face today, and bring them to the forefront of MetLife’s other firms.

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 425 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.

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

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.

Note: Photos available upon request

- Based on 2007 LIMRA International study

L0409030050[exp1209][CT,NY]