

GAVIN / SOLMONESE

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New Firm Gavin/Solmonese Offers Powerful Combination of Corporate Restructuring and Public Affairs Expertise

Acquires Top Restructuring Firm NHB Advisors

Wilmington, Del. – April 17, 2012 - Restructuring professional Ted Gavin, CTP and outgoing Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Joe Solmonese announced the formation of Gavin/Solmonese, a new consulting firm and one of the first that will offer two distinct services with the shared mission of helping organizations navigate and capitalize on business change. The firm will offer services that fall into two categories: corporate restructuring and corporate public affairs strategies.

“I am deeply honored and incredibly excited to partner with Joe to create this new venture,” said Gavin, who will serve as Managing Director of Gavin/Solmonese. “Our team will continue to build upon 30 years of success in helping distressed companies recover losses and protect assets while adding groundbreaking new services that will help healthy companies grow.”

Gavin/Solmonese has acquired top turnaround firm NHB Advisors, where Ted Gavin served as principal and led the firm’s bankruptcy and fiduciary services practice. Under the Gavin/Solmonese name, Gavin and his team will continue to provide its nationally recognized creditors and secured lenders’ rights representation, bankruptcy and fiduciary services, and litigation consulting and expert witness testimony. With more than 15 years of experience working with distressed and merging companies and their stakeholders, Gavin has earned a reputation as one of the country’s leading financial

advisors, representing the interests of creditors and other stakeholders during bankruptcy and restructuring proceedings to secure the greatest possible recovery for his clients. The NHB Advisors name will continue as an operating brand of Gavin/Solmonese, focusing on corporate recovery and turnaround, led by Thomas D. Hays, III, CTP, a founding principal of NHB Advisors.

Upon his exit from HRC in June, Joe Solmonese will head Gavin/Solmonese's corporate public affairs strategies practice, where he will offer strategic consulting and actionable advice to corporations on brand evolution, marketing, public policy and political strategies as they relate to public sentiment on social issues.

“Corporations strive to be better public citizens, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because it impacts the bottom line,” said Solmonese. “Corporations like Starbucks and JC Penney are tackling controversial social issues head on and finding that there is a much greater upside to doing so in terms of attracting a diverse and vibrant workforce, a loyal and engaged customer base, and, ultimately, as a means of increasing profits.”

Prior to the formation of Gavin/Solmonese, Joe Solmonese served as HRC president since 2005, leading the organization through a period of historic growth and success and helping to build HRC to more than one-million members and supporters. Solmonese's leadership at HRC steered the way for passage of such momentous legislation as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009 and the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act in 2010. In addition, Solmonese was recently named national co-chair for President Obama's re-election campaign.

Both Gavin and Solmonese's involvement with HRC – Solmonese as president and Gavin as a supporter of the organization – led the two to join forces over a common vision and shared values of corporate responsibility, philanthropy, diversity and political and social empowerment. “Ted and I have long been interested in the way corporate America impacts social change, acting as both a lightning rod and a leader for public policy and the shifting of public opinion,” said Solmonese.

“Throughout his tenure at HRC, Joe has been pursued by some of the world's largest organizations for his expertise on moving the needle of public sentiment,” said Gavin. “He navigated HRC through significant social change while growing the organization, increasing its membership and changing the experience of the LGBT community. Joe's HRC leadership and strategic policy background combined with my organizational and restructuring background will provide corporations and organizations with a unique resource for success.”

About Gavin/Solmonese:

Gavin/Solmonese is an evolution of traditional corporate consulting. It is one of the first organizations that combines corporate recovery services with organizational effectiveness strategies. Harnessing the corporate restructuring experience of Ted Gavin and the enterprise enlightenment skills of Joe Solmonese, Gavin/Solmonese will lead organizations through the successful resolution of tough business challenges. Hands-on and experienced in the difficulties many organizations face with change – often impacted by external factors – Gavin/Solmonese leads companies through solutions that directly impact their success. For more information, visit www.gavinsolmonese.com.

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