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THE COUNCIL
of INSURANCE
AGENTS & BROKERS

Contact: Cheryl Arvidson
Assistant Director, Strategic Communications
202-662-4426
cheryl.arvidson@ciab.com

Maura Nelson
Vice President, Marketing & Communications
202-662-4432
maura.nelson@ciab.com
For Immediate Release

MARKHAM R. McKNIGHT ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

LAKE LAS VEGAS, Nev. – Markham R. McKnight, of Baton Rouge, La., and president of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, Inc., is the 2009 chairman of The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers.

McKnight, head of BancorpSouth Insurance Services since 2005, was elected chairman during a general membership meeting held in conjunction with the 95th annual Insurance Leadership Forum. The ILF is the premier networking event for the commercial insurance industry.

McKnight took office at the conclusion of the conference, succeeding George A. (Shad) Steadman III, president and COO of Rutherford of Roanoke, Va.

McKnight has been a leading commercial insurance executive for nearly three decades. He was executive vice president of Wright & Percy Insurance, Louisiana's oldest and largest insurance agency, from 1982-1994, and president and CEO of Wright & Percy Insurance from 1994 to 2005. BancorpSouth Bank, a subsidiary of BancorpSouth, Inc., a financial holding company headquartered in Tupelo, Miss., acquired Wright & Percy in 2003.

A graduate of Louisiana State University, McKnight is treasurer of the Louisiana Insurance Guaranty Association and a member of the board of directors of the American Bankers Insurance Association.

As chairman of The Council, McKnight leads a team of officers including Vice Chairman H. Wade Reece, president of BB&T Insurance Services of Raleigh, N.C.; Treasurer James R. Pender, honorary chairman of the board of Oswald Companies in Cleveland, Ohio, and chairman emeritus of Oswald, Trippe & Company in Florida; and Secretary David E. McGurn Jr., president, special marketing and international division, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Itasca, Ill.

*Founded in 1913, **The Council** is the premier association for commercial insurance and employee benefits intermediaries. The Council represents the leading commercial brokers and agents in the United States and abroad. Council members annually place 80 percent of all commercial property/casualty premiums in the United States and administer billions of dollars in employee benefits accounts. www.ciab.com*