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## PRESS RELEASE

### FINANCE 500, INC. – CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

**Irvine, CA, December 1, 2015** – (BUSINESS WIRE) – [Finance 500, Inc.](#) (“F500”) announced that the firm has recently been sold to a group of long time employees who for 18 years have managed the core fixed income and certificate of deposit underwriting activities which is the area of the firm that is widely recognized. Finance 500 has long been family owned and operated. Like all business owners, there comes a time to retire and look to start a new chapter in life and begin enjoying the benefits of a long successful career, which was the recent decision of the previous owners. Due to the change in ownership, Finance 500 consolidated its business lines, has inserted capital into the firm and will now focus on what has made them most successful and well known. As a result of the sale of the firm, new management is in place, including replacing Mr. Hicks as the President and CEO. In his place the Board of Directors has elected Bryan Bennett as President and CEO and Patrick Bennett as Senior Executive Vice President. Mr. Bennett recently commented “The transition to ownership will not be difficult. For well over a decade, the group that purchased the firm has regarded Finance 500 as if it was their own and we take great pride in what we have accomplished thus far. We are looking forward to taking Finance 500 to the next level in the institutional fixed income market place and keeping its legacy going for many more decades.”

Mr. Bryan Bennett has been with the firm since 1998. His responsibilities have included compliance supervision and management of the Fixed Income Department, a liaison to the clearing firms, Depository Trust Company, institutional clients (Bank and Brokerage), vendors and legal counsel. As manager of the largest department of the firm, Mr. Bennett has had the opportunity to play an intricate role in arranging the firms clearing agreements, budget planning, the opening and screening of new accounts and all aspects of the purchase, sale, delivery and settlement of securities transactions. Due to his experience, he has an in depth understanding of the legal documents and contracts required for the underwriting of brokered deposits and has been an essential part in assisting with the opening and on-going maintenance of well over 2000 bank and brokerage clientele.

Ms. DiGiorgio was previously named Chief Financial Officer in August of 2014 and now will also hold the title of Chief Compliance Officer. Ms. DiGiorgio is an industry veteran with more than thirty years of experience in the financial services industry, with expertise in both finance and regulatory compliance. Among her many responsibilities will be helping the company define its growth strategies and business development plans, and then determining the financial steps necessary to implement them safely with proper supervision. “The ability to work with strong and experienced leadership at Finance 500 is an exciting and energizing opportunity for me. I welcome the changes that come with new leadership and look forward to working with the F500 community for many years to come”, commented Ann DiGiorgio.

About Finance 500, Inc.

Founded in 1982, Finance 500 is a full service, independent, registered broker-dealer, headquartered in Irvine California. The firm is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the Security Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Since 1996 Finance 500 has specialized in the underwriting of FDIC insured certificates of deposit for banks across the country. The firm has established itself as one of the leaders in this particular niche, ranking among the top firms nationwide in total underwriting volume each year for more than a decade. Thousands of banks in the nation has used Finance 500 for assistance with their CD underwriting and investment needs.

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