

PRESS RELEASE

Cornerstone Advisors Adds Three Consultants to Meet Rising Client Demand

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. /October 31, 2011/ – To better serve the needs of its growing client base, Cornerstone Advisors, Inc. (www.crnstone.com) announced today the addition of three banking industry consultants to its team. Cornerstone welcomes Michael Besselievre as senior director, Ryan Rackley as director, and Kathleen Niswander as senior consultant.

“Over the past 12 months, Cornerstone Advisors has seen a very steady stream of business, from both existing and new clients in the mid-size bank and credit union markets,” said Scott Sommer, Cornerstone Advisors president and chief executive officer. “Cornerstone has a reputation for providing our clients with customized services (www.crnstone.com/services), and having Michael, Ryan and Kathleen on board will help us present the targeted deliverables our clients have come to expect across the full spectrum of our offerings.”

Besselievre, from Seabeck, Wash., brings to Cornerstone 18 years of industry operations and technology expertise and augments the company’s services in a number of practice areas, including Technology Services, System Selection, Conversion Services and Risk Management. Before joining Cornerstone, Besselievre was managing director of strategic services for an independent consultancy and has held executive level technology positions with a number of Washington and California banks.



Rackley, from Wichita, Kan., possesses in-depth knowledge of banking technology and has led numerous enterprise-wide technology initiatives during his career. At Cornerstone, Rackley focuses his efforts and expertise on the company’s Contract Negotiation, EFT, Technology and System Selection practices. Prior to joining Cornerstone, Rackley spent 11 years in the financial sector, seven years of which were engaged with running the network of an \$8 billion banking institution.



Niswander, from Philadelphia, Pa., puts her strong software implementation and process improvement background to work at Cornerstone, where she is responsible for Enterprise Content Management projects, including implementation of recommended Processes/Workflows, as well as Benchmarking and System Selection projects. Before joining Cornerstone, Niswander was the director of imaging and workflow for a mortgage insurance company. She is an OnBase Certified Advanced System Administrator and OnBase Certified Workflow Administrator.



“We are excited to have these highly skilled professionals on our team and look forward to the additional value we can offer our clients as a result of their being among our growing roster of specialized consultants,” Sommer said. For the foreseeable future, Besselievre, Rackley and Niswander will be providing services from Cornerstone satellite offices in their home states.

Founded in 2002, Cornerstone Advisors (www.crnrstone.com), a management consulting firm focused exclusively on mid-size banks and large-progressive credit unions, provides services in the areas of: Strategic Planning, Benchmarking and Best Practices, Process Reengineering, Technology Assessment and Planning, System Selection and Conversion Management, Vendor Contract Negotiation, Risk Management and Merger Integration. The Cornerstone team founded industry renowned GonzoBanker (www.gonzobanker.com) and authors The Cornerstone Report: Benchmarks and Best Practices for Mid-Size Banks and The Cornerstone Report: Benchmarks and Best Practices for Credit Unions.

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Additional biographical details can be found at www.crnrstone.com/company/team.php.

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