



A Division of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, Inc.

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Former CEO of Wright & Percy Elected Chairman of the CIAB

BATON ROUGE, La. – Markham R. McKnight, former CEO of Baton Rouge-based Wright & Percy Insurance and current president of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, Inc., has been named the 2009 chairman of The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (The Council).

With a membership spread across more than 3,000 locations, The Council is the premier association for commercial insurance and employee benefits intermediaries in the United States and abroad. Only the top one percent of all agents and brokers qualify for membership.

In his new role as chairman, McKnight will serve as leader of The Council's membership, which is responsible for placement of approximately 80 percent of all U.S. commercial property and casualty premiums written annually. This equates to over \$90 billion in annual placements of commercial insurance products and services.

McKnight's leadership will be tapped for a range of projects, including new initiatives to respond to changing market conditions, strategies regarding legislative positions, and responses to news developments affecting the commercial insurance industry.

McKnight has been a commercial insurance executive for nearly three decades. He was executive vice president of Wright & Percy Insurance, Louisiana's oldest and largest insurance agency with headquarters in Baton Rouge, from 1982 to 1994. In 1994, McKnight became president and CEO of Wright & Percy, a post he held until 2005. BancorpSouth Bank, a subsidiary of BancorpSouth, Inc., acquired Wright & Percy in 2003.

"To be elected chairman of such an elite group is an honor that not only speaks to the tremendous success Markham has achieved in his profession, but also shows that his expertise and influence are recognized by his peers," said Kerry Drake, president and CEO of Wright & Percy Insurance and executive vice president of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, Inc.

For more information about The Council, visit www.ciab.com. For more information about Wright & Percy, visit www.wright-percy.com.

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