



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VENTURE & EQUITY

For Immediate Release

WOMEN PROFESSIONALS LAUNCH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VENTURE & EQUITY (*WAVE*) NON PROFIT GROUP HAS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP BASE

New York, N.Y. – February 18, 2004 -- A group of women professionals in the private equity and venture capital industries have launched Women's Association of Venture & Equity, Inc. (*WAVE*), a not-for-profit membership-based national association. Members include women working in all sectors of the private equity industry, including general partners, limited partners, placement agents and other professionals in the industry.

"There is a critical mass of women in the private equity and venture capital industries today and our research indicates they have a strong need for a mentoring group," said *WAVE* founders Susan A. Keller and Sarah N. Camougis, both Private Equity Partners with the national law firm of Edwards & Angell, LLP. "*WAVE* will serve the professional and personal needs of this group while identifying and responding to issues affecting women in this sought after investment profession."

The first of its kind, *WAVE* was established after surveys and research conducted over the last 12-24 months indicated the need for a mentoring group which identifies and addresses the issues being faced today by women in the private equity and venture capital industries. These issues include building a strong network in the industry, increasing deal flow access to peers, mentoring and education.

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Additional surveys and research have shown that more female junior partners are needed and a network needs to be in place to nurture their growth and incentivize them to stay in the industry. Furthermore, the existence of a women's networking and mentoring group like this will assist its members in breaking into what has been a traditionally male dominated industry. Venture deals are often sourced from peers, so the right network of professionals is crucial to developing deal flow and access to decision makers. Lastly, ongoing education and awareness about what women in private equity and venture capital have accomplished is also needed. Women-owned businesses today are thriving and raising capital, and women venture capitalists have the financial savvy and resources to build and invest in high growth businesses.

WAVE offers two levels of membership. Level "A" membership for Founding Members is \$1,000 per year and Level "B" membership for Individual Members is \$200 per year. A Founding Member receives public acknowledgement and recognition in *WAVE* publications; a listing with bio, photo and area of expertise on the *WAVE* website; discount member fees to *WAVE* events; newsletters and membership mailings throughout the year; and maximum visibility with successful, accomplished senior level women with expertise in all aspects of venture capital and private equity.

Individual Members receive discount member fees to *WAVE* events; a listing with bio, photo and area of expertise on the *WAVE* website; newsletters and membership mailings throughout the year; and maximum visibility with successful, accomplished senior level women with expertise in all aspects of venture capital and private equity.

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WAVE is planning two programs in the spring including a day of education, enrichment and a networking reception in New York City in May and a special reception at the National Venture Capital Association's annual meeting in San Francisco, May 12-13. For more information about WAVE, call 212-867-0228.