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Weaver Makes Leadership Changes to Manage Rapid Growth in Advisory Services

HOUSTON, TEXAS (July 10, 2019) – The accounting firm [Weaver](#), one of the 40 largest Certified Public Accounting firms in the United States, announced today that it is restructuring leadership in the firm’s advisory practice to keep pace with rapid growth in these services. For the first time, all of Weaver’s separate advisory practice groups — risk advisory, IT advisory, energy compliance services and financial advisory services — will be led by Brian Thomas as the new partner-in-charge, advisory services. Each group will continue to work under its own specific leader, with Thomas focusing on coordination and strategic direction for the service line as a whole. Previously, Thomas led the IT Advisory Services practice; that group’s new partner-in-charge will be Neha Patel. John Wauson will assume leadership of the Risk Advisory Services practice.

CEO and Managing Partner John Mackel said, “The addition of a partner in charge of Advisory Services reflects the rapid growth in our consulting business and the overall profession, and we are thrilled to have Brian’s leadership and creativity at the helm. He has been a significant contributor to the firm’s Executive Committee, led significant growth of our IT Advisory Services practice since 2006, and has become known as a firm leader in technical innovation and employee satisfaction.”

Brian Thomas, CISA, CISSP, QSA brings to his new role more than 20 years of experience in management consulting, IT advisory services and leadership of large, complex engagements for many of the firm’s largest clients. He frequently publishes articles and speaks to industry and professional groups. Thomas is also a member of the AICPA IMTA Executive Committee, currently chairing its Cybersecurity Task Force, and serves on the IM Advisory Council for the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin.

Neha Patel, CPA, CISA, will now lead Weaver’s IT Advisory Services practice. A national leader in System and Organization Control (SOC) auditing, Neha is recognized by the AICPA as a SOC Specialist and participated in the development of criteria for the national SOC Certificate exam requirements. In addition, she has had broad exposure to all of Weaver’s IT Advisory service offerings during her tenure with Weaver, and she has more than 15 years of combined experience in public accounting, internal audit, and IT controls and compliance.

John Wauson, CPA, who has been at Weaver for 13 years, will now lead the Risk Advisory Services practice. John is known for his ability to work across service lines, practice groups and locations — key skills for managing this broad practice area. His personal career focus is assisting his clients in identifying, assessing, and managing risk by providing services in enterprise risk management, internal audit, risk assessment, business process improvement and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance.

Overall responsibility for the service line will continue to lie with David Rook, chief operating officer for assurance and advisory services.

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About Weaver

Weaver has built a nationwide presence on an unwavering commitment to its clients' success, acting with integrity and always striving to transcend expectations. The firm has grown to be the 37th largest firm in the United States, according to *INSIDE Public Accounting*; it is also ranked the largest independent accounting firm based in the Southwest by *Accounting Today* magazine. Weaver employs more than 750 people in offices from New York City to Los Angeles.

From Fortune 500 multinational companies to start-ups, Weaver's clients include commercial, government and nonprofit organizations. The firm is particularly well known in the financial services, energy, manufacturing and distribution, construction, technology, real estate and health care industries, as well as the public sector. Weaver services go beyond traditional assurance and tax services to include risk advisory, IT advisory, energy compliance and consulting, forensics and litigation services, transaction advisory, valuation, and specialty tax services such as international tax, state and local tax and private client services. Learn more at www.weaver.com.