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BRAC Names 2015 Board Chairman, Van R. Mayhall, Jr. *Prominent attorney to preside over regional economic development board*

Baton Rouge, La. (January 13, 2015) – The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) today announced that Van R. Mayhall, Jr. will serve as chairman of the board for the organization in 2015. Mayhall was selected by unanimous vote during the December 16 meeting of BRAC’s board. A senior partner at Breazeale, Sachse and Wilson, LLP, Mayhall practices in the areas of corporate and business law, business transactions, tax and securities, and insurance regulatory matters.

“As we prepare to embark on a new five-year strategic plan later this year, we’re pleased to have Van’s leadership,” said Adam Knapp, BRAC president and chief executive officer. “A long-time member of BRAC’s executive committee and board, Van has actively engaged with us – most notably through his leadership on the issues of transportation and crime.”

Mayhall is a member of the Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, and American Bar Associations and serves on the board of the American Bar Association’s Committee on Insurance Companies and is a member of the Federation of Regulatory Counsel. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University and a Master in Law Taxation from Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C. Previously, Mayhall served as chairman of his firm’s executive committee.

Mayhall possesses an extensive record of community and civic service. He is a former chair, vice chair, and secretary of the Downtown Development District; vice chair and member of the board of directors of the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority; and former chairman of the boards of directors of the Capital Area United Way and Louisiana Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, among others. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Baton Rouge Area Leadership Program, as well as Leadership Louisiana. He is married to the former Lorri Parks and has three children, Robin, Van, III and Sunny. In his spare time, Mayhall writes fictional thrillers having recently published *Judas the Apostle* and *The Last Sicarius*.

“I’m delighted to serve as BRAC’s board chairman as we continue to cultivate economic opportunities within the region,” Mayhall said. “This is a critical time and we are well-positioned to take advantage of the regional assets we possess and the significant opportunities confronting the Baton Rouge Area.”

Mayhall succeeds Michael Songy, president of CSRS, Inc., who served as BRAC’s board chairman in 2014.

About the Baton Rouge Area Chamber

The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) leads economic development in the nine-parish Baton Rouge Area, working to attract new companies and assisting existing companies with growth and expansions. Today, BRAC investors include more than 1,300 businesses, civic organizations, education institutions, and individuals. In this capacity, BRAC serves as the voice of the business community, providing knowledge, access, services, and advocacy. More information is available at www.brac.org.

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