



NEWS RELEASE



RLJ MCLARTY LANDERS DEBUTS AT NUMBER 31 ON LIST OF TOP 125 DEALERSHIP GROUPS IN THE U.S.

List Reveals Automotive Group is One of the Leading Minority-Owned Companies in the Nation

BETHESDA, MD//MARCH 23, 2010//Robert L. Johnson, founder and chairman of The RLJ Companies and chairman of the board of the automotive group RLJ-McLarty-Landers ranked 31st on the annual “Top 125 U.S. Dealership Groups List,” published by *Automotive News*. This is the automotive group’s first listing and the rankings are based on new car sales in 2009.

RLJ McLarty Landers Automotive Group was created in partnership with Thomas “Mack” McLarty, the Vice Chairman of the automotive group who hails from a fourth-generation family transportation business and former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton; and Steve Landers, Sr. the automotive group’s President who is an experienced auto dealer who hails from Arkansas.

“We are continuing to grow and are rapidly becoming one of the largest, if not the largest minority owned dealerships in the country,” said Johnson. “We have a great management team in place and have proven our ability to execute the acquisitions to successfully compete in the automotive industry,” he concluded.

Mack McLarty said, “We have over 50 years and four generations in the car-dealer industry, today’s announcement speaks to the growing momentum we have had in the automotive sector and we are excited about the opportunity to continue to excel in our industry.”

Steve Landers added, “Today’s announcement speaks to the credibility and dedication behind the RLJ-McLarty-Landers brand. Our focus remains on bringing the best cars and automotive services and products to the customers we serve. We are in a prime position to continue our expansion and growth.”

RLJ-McLarty-Landers is headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, and consists of 19 auto dealerships and three Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealerships across central Arkansas. RLJ-McLarty-Landers currently has 35 automotive franchises within its portfolio and projects an estimated gross revenue for FY09 of \$625M.

About The RLJ Companies

The RLJ Companies, founded by Robert L. Johnson, is an innovative business network that provides strategic investments in a diverse portfolio of companies. The RLJ Companies seeks to target undiscovered or underserved markets then exercise solid management to achieve results. Within The RLJ Companies portfolio, Johnson owns or holds majority interests in businesses operating in banking, private equity, hospitality, automobile dealerships, entertainment, professional sports and video lottery terminal (VLT) gaming. The RLJ Companies is headquartered in Bethesda, MD, with operations in Charlotte, NC; Orlando, FL; Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles, CA; San Juan, PR; and Monrovia, Liberia. Prior to founding The RLJ Companies, Johnson was founder and chairman of Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Media inquiries: Traci Otey Blunt for The RLJ Companies at 240.744.7858 or press@rljcompanies.com.

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