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Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation

Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. Appoints Board Chair, Secretary and new directors

- Shaw named chair and Nichols named secretary; Dennis, John and Stiehle named members at large.

GULFPORT, Miss. (November 4, 2011) – Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. officials recently announced several new appointments to the community development financial institution’s 2011-2012 board of directors.

Dorothy DuBose Shaw, who has served as a member of the nonprofit’s board since 2007, has been elected to the position of chair. Shaw will replace the outgoing chairman, Roy Anderson III.

Shaw is a 39-year employee of Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula. She currently serves as manager of state and local affairs/community relations, but has held numerous leadership positions during her tenure, including manager of personnel services, manager of labor and employee relations and director of staffing, recruiting and employment.

Active in the community, Shaw has received numerous community service awards, including South Mississippi’s Outstanding Community Leaders Award. In 2004 she was selected as one of *Mississippi Business Journal* Mississippi’s 50 Leading Business Women.

She serves on the boards of directors for Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; Boys & Girls Clubs of Jackson County; Jackson County United Way; Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation; St. Vincent DePaul Community Pharmacy; Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi; Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Moss Point Main Street; and Walter Anderson Museum of Art. Shaw is a member of the Gulf Coast Business Council and serves on the Advisory Committee for the Audubon Society of Mississippi. She is president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and is a Paul Harris Fellow in the Moss Point Rotary Club.

A native of Moss Point, Shaw holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Jackson State University. She is a graduate of Leadership Jackson County and has completed numerous professional and leadership development training programs at Ingalls Shipbuilding.

David Nichols, who joined Renaissance Corp.’s board of directors one year ago, has been appointed to the position of secretary. Nichols has served as the urban and economic development director for the city of Gulfport since May 2010.

His extensive professional experience includes serving as a planning consultant, working with several municipalities and community/economic development organizations, including city of Gulfport, the city of D'Iberville, the city of Biloxi, the Biloxi Housing Authority, Mississippi Development Authority, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. As well, he has served as chief administrative officer for the city of Gulfport from 2006 to 2007 and chief administrative officer of the city of Biloxi from 1994 to 2001.

A native of Laurel, Nichols holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi and a Bachelor of Business from the University of Mississippi.

Dave Dennis, Demetria John and Thomas E. Stiehle have been selected as new members at large to the Renaissance Corp.'s board of directors.

Dave Dennis is president of Specialty Contractors & Associates Inc. He has held the position with the company since 1985, when he and his wife Jane purchased the company.

With a strong focus on community, civic and industry development, Dennis is currently serving as chair of Leadership Mississippi, is a member of the executive committees of the Mississippi Economic Council and the Gulf Coast Business Council and is a member of the YMCA's Coast Metro Board.

Past involvement in professional and charitable organizations include, chair of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, president of the Gulf Coast Economic Council, chair of the Walter Anderson Museum of Art, state chair of Business and Industry Political Education Committee, chair of the Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce's Salute to Business and Industry, representative for the State Regional Chamber Coalition, president pro tempore of the Coast Coliseum Commission, president of the St. James School Board, co-chair of the Catholic Diocesan Capital Campaign, vice chair of the Washington & Lee University Parents Council and member of the Knight Foundation Community Board. He also held a seat on the Federal Reserve Board of Directors from 2001 - 2007, and served as chair of the New Orleans Regional Federal Board for three full terms.

In 1999, he was named Volunteer of the Year by the Mississippi Economic Development Council, and was also recognized as a National Volunteer of the Year by the Southern Economic Development Council in 2000. In 2006 he was recognized as the Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

Active in rebuilding the Coast following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Dennis served on several boards including the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal as chair of Historical Preservation, Cultural Preservation and Museums and the Gulf Coast Business Council as a member of the founding executive committee.

In continuation of his rebuilding efforts, he currently serves on Pass Christian's Economic Re-Development Committee. He serves as state chair of Tourism on Momentum Mississippi and numerous other special assignment initiatives. He also serves as Keesler Air Force Base's liaison with the USAF's AETC.

Dennis, a native of Atmore, Ala., and a resident of Pass Christian, holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management from Auburn University.

Demetria John is president of the South Mississippi Housing & Development Corporation where she leads the day-to-day operations for developing affordable housing and mixed-income developments in the 14-county southern region of Mississippi.

Additional career highlights include serving as an independent consultant for Hagerty Consulting of Washington, D.C., where she created and implemented strategies for the purpose of developing a successful housing and community and development practice. She also led the design and development of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Grant Program, monitoring policies and procedures for the City of New Orleans Disaster Recovery Program in 2009. In 2009 and 2010, she provided independent consulting work through Crescent Consulting for various profit and nonprofit entities through Mississippi and Louisiana. As well, John served as vice president of affordable housing development at South Mississippi Housing and Development Corporation; the executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Bay St. Louis; vice president and senior planner at Bowling and Crumbly Inc. on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and assistant planner at Neel-Schaffer in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

A native of Hattiesburg, John holds a Bachelor of Science in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Southern Mississippi and is a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program at Harvard University. She is a Certified Public Housing manager, Housing Development Finance Professional, Community Development Block Grant Administrator and received certification through the and New South Economic Development program. John was appointed to the housing committee under the Governor's Commission on Recovery and Renewal for Hancock County in 2006 to create a housing resource center.

Tom Stiehle is Vice President of Contracts & Pricing for Huntington Ingalls Industries, Ingalls Shipbuilding Division, located in Pascagoula, where he joined the company's Mississippi location this year.

Stiehle's professional highlights include 24 years with Northrop Grumman Corp. In 1987, he joined Grumman Aircraft Corp. in Design Engineering. In 1989, he transitioned into Product Operations, developing technical cost proposals for on-going and new business programs. In 1994, he transferred to Melbourne Florida to work on the USAF Joint STARS program within the Contracts & Pricing department. He held positions of increasing responsibility within the Business Management organization, including Contracts & Pricing Manager in 1999, Business Manager in 2002, Director of Business Management for Advanced Development from 2004 through 2007, and lastly as the Director of Business Management for the Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Battle Management Systems IPT through the beginning of 2011, at which time he accepted the position of Vice President of Contracts & Pricing for Ingalls Shipbuilding.

Stiehle, who relocated to the Coast after 17 years in Indialantic, Fla. and is now a resident of Biloxi, holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Hofstra University. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Adelphi University and a Master of Science in Acquisitions and Government Contracting from the Florida Institute of Technology. He is also a member of the National Contract Management Association.

“Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. has always found strength and support in our board of directors. And as our organization grows, the evolution is reflected in our board, which truly is one of the region’s most seasoned and knowledgeable nonprofit advisory bodies,” said Kimberly LaRosa, president and CEO of Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp. “As we move into another year, I am confident that Dorothy, David, Dave, Demetria and Tom will join our other board members in a combined effort to continue to guide Renaissance Corp. to greater success in creating affordable-workforce housing and economic development solutions for South Mississippi.”

About Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp.:

Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp., founded in 2007 by several South Mississippi business leaders in the wake of Hurricane Katrina’s devastation, is a nonprofit community development financial institution focused on developing communities which provide safe, quality housing solutions and economic opportunities. Through many community partnerships, GCRC has made the dream of homeownership a reality for more than 775 families, resulting in an economic impact of approximately \$9.5 million in South Mississippi. In September 2011, GCRC launched the Small Business Development Fund to stimulate the economic development efforts of the organization. For more information about Gulf Coast Renaissance Corp., please go to www.msgcrc.com, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gulfcoastrenaissance or call (228) 896-3386.

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