



Encore Capital Group Announces New Senior Vice President of Business Development and Portfolio Acquisitions

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SAN DIEGO, Aug 21, 2006 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- Encore Capital Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: ECPG), a leading distressed consumer debt management company, today announced that it has hired Anthony Riggio as its Senior Vice President of Business Development and Portfolio Acquisitions. In this role, Mr. Riggio will lead Encore's consumer debt portfolio acquisition and sales efforts concentrating on large purchase opportunities and developing relationships with major credit issuers, financial institutions and other potential sellers of distressed debt.

Mr. Riggio joins Encore building on a successful career in the credit card industry. Most recently, Mr. Riggio was Senior Vice President for Business Development and Strategic Partnerships for card services at Washington Mutual (formerly Provident) where he was credited with developing, structuring and negotiating significant business partnerships. Prior to that, Mr. Riggio held several senior sales and business development positions in credit card and payment processing businesses.

Mr. Riggio has an MBA from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science degree from The Pennsylvania State University.

"Anthony brings tremendous value to Encore. The depth of his industry experience and proven track record of creating innovative growth opportunities in both new and established markets align well with our strategic goals. Leveraging our analytical, data driven approach, Anthony will be well positioned to drive additional portfolio growth of our consumer debt business in both new and existing asset classes. We are pleased to have him on our team and look forward to his success at Encore," said J. Brandon Black, President and CEO of Encore Capital Group, Inc.

About Encore Capital Group, Inc.

Encore Capital Group, Inc. is a systems-driven purchaser and manager of charged-off consumer receivables portfolios. More information on the company can be found at www.encorecapitalgroup.com.

Forward Looking Statements

The statements in this press release that are not historical facts, including, most importantly, those statements preceded by, or that include, the words "may," "believes," "projects," "expects," "anticipates" or the negation thereof, or similar expressions, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Reform Act"). For all "forward-looking statements," the Company claims the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Reform Act. Such forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause actual results, performance or achievements of the Company and our subsidiaries to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors and other risks and uncertainties are discussed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 and the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2006 and in the subsequent reports filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statement was made. They are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which the Company cannot control, predict or quantify. Future events and actual results could differ materially from the forward-looking statements. The Company will not undertake and specifically declines any obligation, nor does the Company intend, to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect new information or future events or for any other reason.

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