

## Arlington Capital Advisors Advises on Formation of Good Smoke Holdings, LLC

**Birmingham, AL – December 18, 2014** Arlington Capital Advisors, LLC, a boutique investment bank that specializes in advising closely-held consumer businesses, announced today that its principals acted as exclusive advisors on the formation of Good Smoke Holdings, LLC. Good Smoke is a partnership between Birmingham, AL based Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q and Syracuse, NY based Dinosaur Bar-B-Que that was formed to create scale, drive operating efficiencies, share overhead costs and facilitate new growth opportunities for both companies.

"We've got so many great employees that are just standing in line to have an opportunity to become a partner in our business," said Nick Pihakis, CEO and founder of Jim ‘N Nick’s, "and we've got to make sure we have a place for them to go. This partnership makes it easier for both brands to focus on that growth opportunity." Dinosaur founder John Stage agrees, adding "the nice thing about forming this partnership is it allows both concepts to grow responsibly and to focus on our people."

Both Jim ‘N Nick’s and Dinosaur are highly respected brands in the barbecue world, and were recently ranked #1 and #2 in the Daily Meal’s assessment of national barbecue concepts. "Good Smoke creates a partnership between two best-in-class operators who share a great, mutual respect for each other," said Vann Russell, Managing Partner of Arlington Capital Advisors. "Both the Jim ‘N Nick’s team and the Dinosaur team have done an exceptional job building their respective concepts – we are thrilled to have facilitated a closer relationship between them and look forward to watching both brands continue to grow and succeed." Nick Pihakis agrees: "The guidance from our advisors at Arlington proved to be invaluable as we worked through different alternatives to help grow our business. I give Arlington credit for being creative in presenting different options, and thanks to them we ended up with a solution that made the most sense for us and for our people going forward."

### About Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q

Jim ‘N Nick’s started cooking pork "low and slow" in 1985 when Nick, along with his dad Jim, reclaimed an old dry cleaners on Clairmont Avenue in Birmingham, AL where they opened the first Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q. Today, with 33 restaurants in 7 states, Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q has become a Southern institution. For more information on Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar-B-Q, please visit [www.jimnicks.com](http://www.jimnicks.com).

### About Dinosaur Bar-B-Q

In 1988, after years of cooking on the road for motorcycle shows, fairs, and festivals up and down the East Coast, Pit Master John Stage founded Dinosaur Bar-B-Que in Syracuse, New York. Today Dinosaur Bar-B-Que is a nationally recognized brand with 8 restaurants in 3 states and was voted Best Barbecue in America by Good Morning America in 2009. For more information on Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, visit [www.dinosaurbarbque.com](http://www.dinosaurbarbque.com).

### About Arlington Capital Advisors

Arlington Capital Advisors is a boutique investment bank that specializes in providing middle-market businesses with advisory services. Arlington focuses on providing strategic advice to its clients, including sell-side and buy-side mergers and acquisitions, sourcing growth capital and other capital-centric strategic alternatives for businesses across a wide array of industries including a specific focus and expertise in consumer businesses. Securities offered through M&A Securities Group, Inc. M&A Securities Group, Inc. and Arlington Capital Advisors are not affiliated companies.

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