

## Arlington Capital Advisors Facilitates Investment in Hickory Tavern

**Birmingham, AL – January 23, 2014** Arlington Capital Advisors, LLC, a boutique investment bank that specializes in advising closely-held middle market businesses, announced today that its principals facilitated a growth capital investment in T&B Management, LLC dba Hickory Tavern ("Hickory Tavern" or the "Company") by Connecticut-based Rosser Capital Partners. Arlington Capital Advisors' principals, acting as registered securities agents of M&A Securities Group, Inc., were the exclusive financial advisors to Hickory Tavern and its shareholders on the transaction.

A Charlotte institution since 1997, Hickory Tavern's unique brand of casual dining, lively bar atmosphere, and sports enthusiasm makes it the perfect place for almost any occasion. With 16 units in operation across North Carolina and South Carolina, Hickory Tavern is known for being one of the premier polished casual grill and bar concepts in the Southeast and has twice been named runner-up in ESPN's Best Sports Bar in America contest. With its investment from Rosser Capital Partners, Hickory Tavern plans to execute a calculated growth strategy outside of its existing markets.

"Looking back on this process, Arlington's restaurant industry experience was apparent from the beginning," said Brad Smith, CEO of Hickory Tavern. "They exposed us to the best restaurant focused private equity firms out there. Also, throughout the transaction Arlington was able to advise us on complex deal issues in a manner that was simple to understand and put us at ease with the process. We are thrilled to have partnered with Rosser Capital Partners, and could not have found such a capable partner without Arlington."

"Hickory Tavern is a unique restaurant company that has all of the key attributes we look for – outstanding leadership, a strong culture, great food and service and attractive positioning for future development," said Jacob Organek, Managing Director at Rosser Capital Partners. "We look forward to our partnership with Brad, Tom and their team."

"From the onset of our work with Brad Smith, Tom Hager and the Hickory Tavern team, Arlington's focus was to pair the Company with a great financial partner with a proven track record investing in the restaurant industry," said Vann Russell, Managing Partner of Arlington Capital Advisors. "We are thrilled to have facilitated a new partnership for this great brand with notable restaurant investors Rosser Capital Partners. We are excited to watch this partnership take Hickory Tavern to the next level."

## **About Hickory Tavern**

Founded in 1997, the Hickory Tavern network has grown to include restaurants in 16 communities throughout North Carolina and Spartanburg, SC. Hickory Tavern's unique brand of casual dining, lively bar atmosphere, and sports enthusiasm provides the perfect destination no matter what the time of day. Hickory Tavern is owned by Charlotte-based T&B Management, LLC. For more information, visit **www.thehickorytavern.com**.

## **About Rosser Capital Partners**

Rosser Capital Partners is a lower middle market investment firm with a focus on investing in restaurant, consumer and retail companies that demonstrate significant growth potential and can benefit from strategic and operational enhancements. The firm seeks to partner with strong management teams who have demonstrated the skills, commitment and discipline to create shareholder value over time. Rosser Capital Partners supports its management teams by providing access to a wide network of strategic industry contacts, active lending institutions, consultants, and additional management and operational resources. Over the last 20-plus years, the principals of Rosser Capital Partners have completed 24 transactions including 18 in the restaurant industry. Rosser Capital Partners is headquartered in Greenwich, CT. For more information, visit **www.rossercapitalpartners.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.

For more information on Arlington Capital Advisors, please visit **arlingtoncapitaladvisors.com**