

NexGen News Alert

Community Banking Expert Mary Laraia Joins NexGen

Chicago, Illinois (March 25, 2009) - NexGen Capital Partners, LLC (**NCP**) announced today the addition of Mary A. Laraia its growing management team. With more than 30 years of management experience, Mary joins NCP as a principal and joins its wholly-owned subsidiaries, NexGen Strategic Advisors, LLC and NexGen Strategic Investors, LLC, as Senior Managing Director. Mary will be responsible for the development of Community Reinvestment Act (**CRA**) qualifying, structured investment products, CRA regulatory analysis and business development.

“Mary is a nationally recognized expert on community reinvestment and brings extensive experience in community banking. Her experience is a perfect match with the mission of NexGen and our clients,” said Lawrence C. Manson, Jr., Chief Executive Officer and Senior Managing Director of NCP.

Mary has served as a senior manager at four of the country’s top twenty banks. Most recently she was the Group Senior Vice President for Civic and Community Development for LaSalle Bank, N.A., a unit of ABN AMRO and the largest community development lender in the Midwest. She was responsible for strategy and coordination of LaSalle’s external affairs which included CRA compliance and annual reporting of \$12 billion in CRA-eligible loans and investments. She also managed a portfolio of \$350 million in complex community development loans and investments. The CRA investment portfolio of LaSalle included a large commitment to Small Business Investment Companies, one of the largest in the Midwest. She served in similar positions at Bank One Corporation, First Chicago NBD and First Chicago Corporation.

“CRA investments can make a huge difference in our economy and our communities,” says Mary. “Structuring products that work in the investment world while supporting small businesses and job creation is exciting as well as a challenge. I am thrilled to be joining NexGen now, when getting a financial issue right can make a real difference.”

Mary is also a Senior Fellow with the Aspen Institute, specializing in community programs and financial services for underserved populations. Her former positions include serving as head of National Community Reinvestment for Bank One Corporation and as the Director of Capital Development of Cook County where she managed a \$750 million construction program for hospitals and criminal justice facilities. Mary was formerly Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Council and also taught urban planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Widely recognized as a leader in innovative CRA and urban development programs and effective philanthropy, Mary was named the Financial Services Advocate of the Year by the Small Business Administration of Illinois, 40-Under-40 by *Crain’s Chicago Business*, 100 Persons Making a Difference by the *Chicago Tribune* and one of Northwestern University’s Top 100 Women Graduates.

Mary received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University and a Masters of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Loyola University of Chicago. In addition, she was awarded a Loeb Fellowship by Harvard University.

About NexGen Capital Partners, LLC

NCP offers investment and advisory services to community financial institutions and their corporate clients through its wholly-owned subsidiaries NexGen Strategic Investors, LLC and NexGen Strategic Advisors, LLC, respectively.

About NexGen Strategic Investors, LLC

NSI, a registered investment advisor licensed in the State of Illinois, has developed several proprietary structured investment products for a range of institutional investors, including community financial institutions, which should provide them with appropriate risk diversification, higher relative returns and targeted community development exposure.

About NexGen Strategic Advisors, LLC

NSA assists businesses in meeting their strategic and financial objectives by offering a selective range of services. Specifically, NSA targets community financial institutions and their middle-market corporate clients. Success in providing advice and transaction execution requires vision, commitment, integrity, teamwork and experience. We combine these elements to create value for our clients.