

NEWS RELEASE



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Cetera Financial Group Announces Appointment of Top Financial Services Industry Executive Maliz Beams to Parent Company's Board of Directors

Addition of Well-regarded Leader to Aretec Board Further Demonstrates Commitment to Best Practices in Corporate Governance and Attracting Leading Talent

Ms. Beams to Chair Audit Committee, Serve on Risk Committee as Cetera Continues to Strengthen Organization in Order to Deliver Advice-Centric Client Experience

LOS ANGELES, CA – Cetera Financial Group (Cetera)*, a leading network of independent firms supporting the delivery of financial advice through independent advisors, today announced that established industry leader Maliz Beams has been named a member of the Board of Directors of its parent company, Aretec Group, Inc. (Aretec). Ms. Beams' appointment to the Board, where she will chair the Audit Committee and serve as a member of the Risk Committee, further demonstrates Cetera and Aretec's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance and attracting proven talent. The move also brings additional management depth and expertise to Aretec's Board as Cetera continues to progress toward its overarching strategic goal of delivering a transformative advice-centric experience for advisors and their clients.

Ms. Beams brings a wealth of financial services industry experience to the Aretec Board, having served as CEO, President, Partner and Senior Managing Director of prominent financial services organizations across an accomplished 30-year career. Most recently, she served as the Chief Executive Officer of Voya Financial Retirement Solutions from 2011 to 2015, where she successfully aligned the strategies and operations of twelve separately-managed units of the company to reinvigorate Voya's retirement business in preparation for its IPO in 2013. Prior to her time at Voya Financial, Ms. Beams was the President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, LLC. She has also held senior leadership roles at Zurich Scudder Investments and Fleet Investment Advisors. Early in her career, she held leadership positions with American Express and Citibank.

Robert J. Moore, CEO of Cetera, said, "I am delighted to announce the addition of Maliz Beams to the Aretec Board of Directors. Her vast and deep industry experience, extraordinary credibility as an effective leader and the immense respect she has for the work advisors do for their clients will serve us extremely well. As we continue to develop resources and platforms to deliver and support a truly advice-centric experience, it is very important for Cetera to have the support of a well-regarded and diverse Board. The addition of Maliz Beams elevates Cetera's opportunity to benefit from the insight and vision of executives who have tackled tough challenges and driven strong results throughout their careers. I am also very pleased that she upholds the Board's commitment to enhancing and promoting best practices in corporate governance in our industry."

Bob Dineen, Non-Executive Chairman of Aretec, said, "Maliz Beams is an outstanding addition to the Aretec Board of Directors. She is an accomplished leader and an innovative strategist who is passionate about the industry, and brings a track record of relentlessly putting clients' interests first. I am confident that her experience, insights and prudent counsel will prove invaluable as we continue our work to rewrite the 'rules of engagement' in how advisors guide their clients toward their financial goals."

Maliz Beams said, "I am very pleased to join the Board of Directors of Aretec. Cetera is in an exciting position to take a leading role in reshaping the ways in which advisors serve clients in the years ahead, and it is gratifying to have the opportunity to play a part in that story. I look forward to working with Robert Moore, Bob Dineen and all the other distinguished members of the Aretec Board to provide guidance as Cetera works to capitalize on these opportunities, and to continuing to uphold the Board's commitment to the highest standards of corporate governance."

About Cetera Financial Group®

Cetera Financial Group ("Cetera") is a leading network of independent firms empowering the delivery of financial advice to individuals, families and company retirement plans across the country through trusted financial advisors and financial institutions. Cetera is the second-largest independent financial advisor network in the nation by number of advisors, as well as a leading provider of retail services to the investment programs of banks and credit unions.

Through its multiple distinct firms, Cetera offers independent and institutions-based advisors the benefits of a large, established broker-dealer and registered investment adviser, while serving advisors and institutions in a way that is customized to their needs and aspirations. Advisor support resources offered through Cetera include award-winning wealth management and advisory platforms, comprehensive broker-dealer and registered investment adviser services, practice management support and innovative technology. For more information, visit cetera.com.

* "Cetera Financial Group" refers to the network of independent retail firms encompassing, among others, Cetera Advisors, Cetera Advisor Networks, Cetera Investment Services (marketed as Cetera Financial Institutions), Cetera Financial Specialists, First Allied Securities, Girard Securities and Summit Brokerage Services. All firms are members FINRA/SIPC.

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