

## Kroll Bond Rating Agency Announces Christopher Whalen's Departure

NEW YORK, NY (March 14, 2017) – Kroll Bond Rating Agency (KBRA) announces that Christopher Whalen is stepping down as Senior Managing Director and Head of Research at KBRA, where for the past three years he has been responsible for the ratings of commercial banks and financial institutions, as well as publishing research.

"It has been a pleasure to work with the team at KBRA over the past three years," Whalen said. "The Financial Institutions group has grown significantly in size and capability during this period. I expect to see great things from KBRA in the future."

Whalen will be returning to his past role as an analyst and consultant covering the financial services and mortgage finance sectors. Whalen will also be marketing his latest book, *Ford Men: From Inspiration to Enterprise* which will be released by Laissez Faire books in early April this year.

"When Chris joined KBRA in 2014, the Financial Institutions group was in its infancy and most of the team was still focused on the legacy bank data products of Lacle Financial," notes KBRA President & CEO Jim Nadler. "Today the team includes over 25 professionals, has rated over 100 commercial banks and non-banks, and has added an industry-leading aviation team and a new insurance ratings group. Thanks to Chris' leadership, we are poised for growth in the financial institutions space, both in the U.S. and as KBRA expands outside the U.S."

Whalen plans to launch a subscription newsletter focused on financials and related technology companies in April. He will also re-launch his popular blog, the *Institutional Risk Analyst*, and participating in a new online video service that will enable him to provide real-time commentaries on developments in the financial markets.

"KBRA thanks Chris for his dedication and insight, and we especially wish him luck with his new book and other endeavors," Nadler commented. "We look forward to ways to work together in the future."

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KBRA is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO). In addition, KBRA is recognized by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) as a Credit Rating Provider (CRP).