

12 June 2009

HEARTWOOD APPOINTS BERNARD CHARLES AS HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Heartwood, the independently owned wealth manager, announces the recent appointment of Bernard Charles as Head of Human Resources.

In his role Bernard is responsible for designing and implementing a tailored HR strategy that will enable the company to attract and retain the key talent required to reach the next phase of its development. He is joining Heartwood's Executive Committee.

Bernard's career in Human Resources spans 16 years and over this period he has gained strategic and operational experience across a broad range of sectors. Bernard joins Heartwood from Standard Bank where he was HR Portfolio Head and responsible for leading the HR Business Partnering function for the front office. Prior to this, he was Head of Human Resources at Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group (JLT), a leading UK insurance broker. In this role he led a team providing full HR consultancy to over 2,500 employees across six group companies.

Bernard is a member of the Institute of Personnel and Development and holds a Bachelor of Business Studies Degree (First Class Honours).

Simon Lough, Chief Executive Officer at Heartwood, commented: "We are delighted to have attracted someone of Bernard's quality and experience to Heartwood. His recruitment rounds out our management transition, a process that was started last year and resulted in a number of senior appointments.

In our view too many people in the wealth management industry talk about the importance of their people but do not reflect it in the seniority of their HR team. Bernard will be a key member of our senior management, and this is reflected in his appointment to our Executive Committee. He is charged with helping us attract, retain and motivate real talent. This reflects our ambition to grow the business in the years ahead."

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Heartwood provides integrated investment, tax and retirement planning solutions for ultra high net worth and high net worth individuals from its offices in London and the South East. Heartwood now manages and administers circa £1bn of funds for clients.

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