



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laura Townsend joins the MAG as SVP of Operations



January 9, 2017-Minneapolis, MN -The Merchant Advisory Group, the MAG, is pleased to announce Laura Townsend has joined the MAG staff in the newly created role of Sr. Vice President of Operations. Laura brings to the MAG her considerable experience in payments and Treasury services while at one of the largest global companies.

MAG CEO, Mark Horwedel, stated, "Laura is a wonderful addition to the MAG staff. Her background and experience will enable us to deliver an ever-increasing value proposition to the membership given her leadership skills, operational expertise and her recent efforts on omni-channel experiences."

Formerly, Laura led corporate cash, consumer payment, and global digital product management initiatives including emerging innovative consumer experience opportunities at McDonald's Corporation most recently as the Senior Director, Global Cashless & Digital Products. In addition, Laura has held various leadership roles on external industry boards and special interest groups with the objective to drive positive change in payments through multi-stakeholder collaboration and education.

About the Merchant Advisory Group

The Merchant Advisory Group (MAG) was founded in 2008 by a small visionary group of merchants in the payments field dedicated to driving positive change in payments through multi-stakeholder collaboration. Today, the MAG represents over 112 of the largest U.S. merchants who account for nearly \$2.6 Trillion in annual sales at over 430,000 locations across the U.S. and online. Roughly \$1.5 Trillion of those sales are electronic representing over 41 Billion card payments. MAG members employ nearly 11.5 million associates.

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Please join us at the MAG's 2017 Mid- Conference, **February 15-17, 2017**, at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA> Visit the MAG website at www.merchantadvisorygroup.org for more information.