

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, March 21, 2013

Contact:
Jamie Mongiovi
(850) 222-3767
jamie@coremessage.com



Ballard Partners Expanding Offices in Tallahassee and Miami

– Former State Rep. Michael Abrams & Monica Rodriguez join Florida’s top government affairs firm –

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Ballard Partners announced the expansion of its Tallahassee and Miami offices with the addition of two key team members, former State Representative Michael Abrams and Monica Rodriguez. Michael Abrams will serve as chair of Ballard Partners’ public policy team in their Miami-based office, where he will utilize his valuable expertise in health care policy and government affairs to enhance the firm’s lobbying efforts across the state. Monica Rodriguez joins Ballard Partners’ Tallahassee office as a partner, bringing to the team more than a decade of experience in legislative affairs at both state and federal levels.

“Expanding our exceptional teams in Tallahassee and Miami will amplify our ability to represent clients throughout the state. Mike’s vast experience in public policy, particularly in health care and government appropriations, will complement our firm’s strength in those areas,” said Brian Ballard, president of Ballard Partners. “Monica brings to the firm a key addition to our health care, insurance, and transportation policy teams. We are delighted to welcome such talented additions to Ballard Partners.”

Abrams joins the team from Akerman Senterfitt where he served as a public policy advisor and co-chair of the company’s Government Affairs & Public Policy Practice Group. As a former state representative from North Miami Beach, Abrams has more than 25 years of experience in legislative and public policy arenas. Abrams spent more than a decade in the Florida House of Representatives where he served four consecutive years as chairman of the House Finance & Taxation Committee. Abrams became an expert on state tax policy and how it impacts private companies, health care, and public education. His client base includes non-profits, municipalities, counties, health care companies, and governmental entities. Abrams graduated *cum laude* from the University of Miami where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. During his time at the University of Miami, Abrams was president of Undergraduate Student Government. He currently serves on the University’s Board of Trustees.

Rodriguez comes to Ballard Partners from Akerman Senterfitt where she served as a shareholder and public policy consultant. During her time with the firm, Rodriguez was instrumental in key legislative initiatives as well as helping obtain funding for health care, non-profit entities, and local governments. Earlier in her career, Rodriguez served as a legislative aide to former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, now U.S. Senator Marco Rubio. Rodriguez graduated *cum laude* from the School of Law at the University of Miami, where she also earned a Master of Science degree.

###

Ballard Partners has been named by state and national publications as the leading government affairs firm in the Sunshine State. The Florida-based lobbying firm, with offices in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, West Palm Beach, Miami, Tampa, and Orlando, combines extensive experience in government affairs with unwavering advocacy to maximize results for the clients they serve. Visit <http://ballard-partners.com> for more information.