

PRESS RELEASE

GBQ Heading for Arena District

Central Ohio's largest independent accounting & consulting firm to occupy new building

Columbus, March 10, 2008: Columbus' Arena District will soon be home to Central Ohio's largest independent accounting & consulting firm when GBQ Partners LLC moves from the Brewery District to 230 West Street later this year. The Columbus-based firm will take up to 40,000 square feet in the, 130,700-square-foot office building currently under construction off McFerson Commons. The space will allow for up to 170 people, with additional expansion options in the future.

"We are thrilled to have GBQ in the Arena District. They are an progressive firm with tremendous growth potential. They are simply a great fit for the space at 230 West Street," said Brian Ellis, President and COO of Nationwide Realty Investors.

With its rapid growth over the past 5 years, GBQ has outgrown the current 28,000 square feet leased at **500 S Front Street** in Columbus' **Brewery District**. The firm anticipates aggressive future growth fueled by strong client additions in its competencies of Assurance and Tax as well as its other service areas of Business Valuation, M&A, Litigation Support, Risk Advisory and Redbank Advisory.

The firm considered staying in the Brewery District or moving to Huntington Center, but felt the atmosphere in the Arena District was more conducive to GBQ's culture. "The site fits our personality," added Wade Kozich, Managing Partner.

"Attracting and retaining bright, talented people is crucial to our success and the opportunity to occupy space designed from scratch to fit the needs of our associates" was cited as the reason for GBQ's move. "We hope to create a working environment that both associates and clients will enjoy coming to. The vibrancy of what's going on in that part of town drew GBQ to the Arena District. It's a fun place with a lot going on; our people want to be where there's energy," said Kozich.

The district's amenities were a strong draw to the area. Kozich also cited the building's close proximity to Nationwide Arena, Northbank Park, Lifestyle Communities Pavilion and Huntington Park, the planned baseball stadium for the Columbus Clippers

Columbus-based **Design Collective Inc.** (DCI) will design the space for GBQ. Tenant improvements are scheduled to begin in July and the firm expects to occupy the space by January 1, 2009.

About GBQ:

GBQ is the largest independent accounting and consulting firm in Central Ohio. With over 125 associates we are large enough to handle the needs of today's complex and progressive organizations, while providing close personal attention. As a member of the BDO Seidman alliance, GBQ has access to global resources through an international network of accounting and consulting firms.

Visit GBQ Partners on the Internet at www.gbq.com

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