

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SERVICE PROVIDER IS FIRST TO BE CERTIFIED FOR
FIDUCIARY EXCELLENCE**

TORONTO, January 27, 2009 – CEFEX, Centre for Fiduciary Excellence, LLC, has certified Securian Retirement of St. Paul, MN as a Service Provider performing investment manager due diligence in adherence with a standard of fiduciary excellence. Securian Retirement (“Securian”) is the first Service Provider globally to successfully complete this type of independent certification process.

The Prudent Practices for Service Providers are derived from the Prudent Practices for Investment Advisors (Handbook) published in 2006 by Fiduciary360 (fi360) with technical editing provided by the *American Institute of Certified Public Accountants* (AICPA). This Handbook describes how an Investment Advisor assumes the responsibility for managing a client’s overall investment management process, which includes the selection, monitoring and de-selection of investment managers as well as developing processes to implement investment strategies and fiduciary practices on an ongoing basis.

CEFEX defines Service Providers as organizations providing services to Investment Stewards or Advisors. The definition includes organizations providing services to ERISA plans (“parties in interest”) as well as those providing consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, investment brokerage, or other similar services to investment fiduciaries.

According to the General Manager of the Centre for Fiduciary Excellence, Carlos Panksep, “Through CEFEX’s independent assessment, the certification provides assurance to investors, both institutional and individual, that Securian has demonstrated adherence to the industry’s best practices.”

Securian provides services with fiduciary acknowledgement for conducting due diligence on investment managers and analyzing performance of investment managers to monitor and maintain the portfolio. This certification also addresses services where Securian is not a fiduciary itself, but is providing meaningful support to investment fiduciaries in the preparation of investment policy statements, asset allocation studies and assisting in the implementation of liability protections (eg. safe harbors). "Securian's successful completion of the test of its process for selecting investment managers confirms its commitment to a high fiduciary standard of care" said Christine Denton, the CEFEX analyst from Roland Criss Fiduciary Services who led the assessment.

The annual certification process involves a detailed assessment of operational data, client files and procedures, followed by on-site interviews with key personnel. It is similar to the existing CEFEX certification programs for Investment Advisors, Fiduciary Advisors, Investment Managers, Investment Stewards and ASPPA Recordkeepers. Securian Retirement is registered at www.cefex.org where its certificate can also be viewed.

The Fiduciary Practices in the Handbook for Investment Advisors are substantiated by legislation, case law and regulatory opinion letters from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), Uniform Prudent Investor Act (UPIA), Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) and the Uniform Management of Public Employee Retirement Systems Act (MPERS) in the U.S.

A full copy of the Prudent Practices for Service Providers standard can be viewed by clicking on Securian's on-line CEFEX certificate. More information on Securian Retirement is available at: www.securian.com.

About CEFEX:

The Centre for Fiduciary Excellence, LLC. is an independent certification organization. CEFEX works closely with industry experts to provide comprehensive assessment programs to improve the fiduciary practices of investment stewards, advisors, recordkeepers, managers and other service providers. CEFEX has offices in Toronto, Canada, and Pittsburgh, PA.