



Aaron Rents, Inc. Names James L. Cates Senior Group Vice President

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ATLANTA, Aug 19, 2002 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- Aaron Rents, Inc. (NYSE: RNT), the nation's leader in the rental, sales and lease ownership, and specialty retailing of residential and office furniture, consumer electronics and home appliances and accessories, today announced that James L. Cates has been promoted to Senior Group Vice President. He will also continue his responsibilities as Corporate Secretary.

"This promotion recognizes the contributions made by Jim Cates since he joined Aaron Rents over eleven years ago in addition to his increasing responsibilities in the Company," said R. Charles Loudermilk, Sr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Aaron Rents, Inc.

Mr. Cates joined Aaron Rents as Director of Risk Management in 1990 and was promoted to Vice President in 1994. In 1999 he was elected Corporate Secretary for the Company. Prior to Aaron Rents, he was the Director of Industrial Relations from 1985 until 1990 for W. R. Bean & Son. From 1975 until 1985 he was employed with Munford, Inc., beginning in the store management training program and advancing to the position of Personnel Director.

Mr. Cates completed his undergraduate degree at State University College at Buffalo and received his J.D. degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law. He resides with his wife Mary Ellen in Avondale Estates, Georgia.

Aaron Rents, Inc., based in Atlanta, currently has more than 650 Company- operated and franchised stores across the United States and Puerto Rico for the rental and sale of residential and office furniture, accessories, consumer electronics and household appliances. The Company also manufactures furniture, bedding and accessories at 10 facilities in four states.

SOURCE Aaron Rents, Inc.

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