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**CONTACT: Michael Deering
C/O Bell Mortgage
(952) 944-1319**

BELL MORTGAGE LAUNCHES EMERGING MARKETS DIVISION WITH THE APPOINTMENTS OF MANAGER AND LOAN OFFICER

***Additions affirm the Bell Mortgage commitment to bring its quality people
and product to the underserved in Minnesota***

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. – Bell Mortgage announces the appointment of Thomasina Reid and hiring of Miriam Rea, two highly experienced industry professionals, to initiate the Emerging Markets Division of Bell Mortgage. Thomasina Reid will serve as Emerging Markets Manager and Miriam Rea will work as a Loan Officer in that division.

Thomasina Reid has been a Loan Officer with Bell Mortgage since April of 2001. Before her move to the Twin Cities, Reid worked 10 years as Regional Vice President for Firststar Bank in Iowa. Under that title, Reid managed the mortgage lending units at 11 banks. Reid was also in charge of Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) lending for the state. In 1996, Reid became Vice President of National Underwriting at Amerus Bank. One year later, Reid moved on to become President of First Iowa Mortgage, a subsidiary of First Federal Savings Bank.

Under her new title as Emerging Markets Manager at Bell Mortgage, Reid will train Loan Officers who will work specifically with underserved Minnesotans including members of the Hispanic, Hmong, Somolian and other minority communities as well as individuals with low to moderate incomes. Reid herself is Hispanic. “We will offer guidance, education and fair, appropriate mortgage programs to people in underserved markets, many of whom have fallen victim to predatory lenders in the past,” says Reid.

One of the Bell Mortgage Loan Officers who will work under Reid’s guidance is Miriam Rea, a graduate of both The University of Minnesota-Morris and The University of Minnesota Law School. Rea is Hispanic, speaks fluent Spanish and is originally from El Paso, Texas. During her time in Minnesota, Rea has worked for a half dozen non-profit organizations dedicated to a wide range of minorities, including the Latino community, which is the fastest growing minority group in the Twin Cities. “I have a lot of experience working with minority groups in Minnesota,” says Rea. “I wanted to move into the mortgage industry to help those same people achieve the goal of owning a home. I see it as a continuation of my work.”

Based in Minneapolis, Bell Mortgage has 17 locations nationwide and more than 250,000 family mortgages to its name.

A commitment to community spanning three centuries, the constant pursuit of cutting-edge technology, the best combination of products, prices and service, all backed by the experience and dedication of the largest and oldest private mortgage company in Minnesota- that’s Bell Mortgage and has been for more than 120 years.

For more information on Bell Mortgage, log on to www.bellmortgage.com.

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