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Port Tampa Bay retains Bryant Miller Olive as its bond counsel, extending the relationship past 25-year mark

TAMPA, FL (Sept. 3, 2015) Port Tampa Bay's Board of Directors has voted to retain Bryant Miller Olive (BMO) as its bond counsel – a position the law firm has held since 1992. This Aug. 18 decision came after a rigorous competitive bidding process and an independent evaluation committee ranked BMO first out of four firms that submitted proposals.

"I congratulate Bryant Miller Olive on their selection as our bond counsel," said Mike Macaluso, Chief Financial Officer of Port Tampa Bay. "BMO is a large firm that gets involved in some fairly big transactions, and while the Port may not be their largest client, we always have their undivided attention and support whenever we need it."

As bond counsel, BMO represents Port Tampa Bay on all legal matters in connection with financings, re-financings, bond refundings, derivative transactions, loans, and other legal services related to the ongoing management of the Port's debt.

Since BMO began working with Port Tampa Bay, it has handled legal work related to over \$500 million worth of financial transactions, helping the Port grow into one of the nation's most diverse seaports.

During the last two fiscal years, BMO assisted Port Tampa Bay as it obtained two state infrastructure bank loans through the Florida Department of Transportation. The first loan was used to purchase a Post-Panamax container gantry crane, which allows the seaport to prepare for a future with larger, wider cargo ships. Port Tampa Bay currently plans to use the second loan to construct a 146,000-square-foot steel warehouse building with a railroad spur.

"This was the first time the Port had worked with FDOT on these types of transactions, so it was extremely helpful to have Bryant Miller Olive walk us through the process and make sure the Port's interests were protected," said Macaluso.

Bryant Miller Olive has also acted as Bond Counsel on the State of Florida's Seaport Investment Program.

About Bryant Miller Olive: With a distinguished 45-year history of serving its clients' needs, Bryant Miller Olive represents governments, businesses and agencies in legal matters relating to public finance, state and local government law, complex transactions, project finance, and litigation. The firm has served as Bond Counsel on more deals than any other firm in the Southeast over the past five years, and more than any other firm in Florida over the past decade. Members of the firm are often called upon to handle some of the most complex legal issues in the boardroom and in the courtroom. The firm has offices in Tampa, Tallahassee, Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.bmo.com.