MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OF LOUISIANA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERS Chief Investment Officer Christopher J. Saik to Receive Markets Group Strategy Award

Award recognizes a decade-long transformation of the Louisiana municipal pension fund's portfolio through a disciplined, cost-efficient investment philosophy.

BATON ROUGE, La. September 2, 2026 — Christopher J. Saik, Chief Investment Officer of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana (MERS), has been named the recipient of the Markets Group Strategy Award. Saik will accept the award at ALTSSE, Markets Group's Southeast alternative investment forum, on October 20, 2026, in Charlotte, N.C.

The Strategy Award recognizes Saik's leadership in transforming the fund's portfolio through a disciplined investment philosophy that challenged conventional thinking around portfolio construction. By streamlining the portfolio around a cost-efficient approach, Saik has delivered consistent, resilient returns across market cycles.

When Saik joined MERS as its first Chief Investment Officer in late 2016, the System held approximately $800 million in assets spread across a large number of strategies, many of them high-fee and underperforming. Working with the System's Board of Trustees and investment consultant Meketa Investment Group, Saik led a multi-year effort to simplify the portfolio: consolidating strategies, reducing complexity and cost, and concentrating the fund's capital where it could be deployed most efficiently. The changes have saved the System an estimated $4 million in investment fees per year.

Under Saik's leadership, MERS' assets have grown to approximately $1.6 billion, while the portfolio has become more transparent and more resilient through volatile markets.

At the forum, Saik will join a moderated conversation on the conviction behind challenging conventional portfolio construction, the value of simplicity in institutional investing, and the leadership principles that have made him a respected collaborator and mentor across the investment community.

Prior to joining MERS, Saik served as Chief Investment Officer of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS) from 2014 to 2016. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance with a concentration in investments from Louisiana State University and a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi.

7937 Office Park Boulevard • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809
Telephone 225-925-4810 • 800-820-1137
Facsimile 225-925-4816 • www.mersla.com

About the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana

The Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana (MERS) is a statewide public pension fund headquartered in Baton Rouge that provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to employees of participating Louisiana municipalities. With approximately $1.6 billion in assets under management, MERS invests with a methodical, long-term philosophy focused on providing secure retirement benefits to its members. For more information, visit www.mersla.com.

About Markets Group

Established in 2009, Markets Group connects the global investment industry through personalized, results-driven experiences and forums. It brings together the leading voices in alternatives, private equity, private wealth, real estate, and institutional investing. ALTSSE is developed and led by the CAIA Association, CFA Society North Carolina, and Markets Group.

Media Contact:
Maris LeBlanc
Executive Director
Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana
225-925-4810

###