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Cetera Financial Group Announces Appointment of Robert Dineen as Chairman of the Board

Robert Dineen Named Non-Executive Chairman of the Board of Cetera's Parent Company, Aretec Group, Inc.

Appointment Reaffirms Cetera's Commitment to Best Practices in Corporate Governance

Los Angeles, CA – Cetera Financial Group[®] ("Cetera" or "the Company")*, a leading network of independent broker-dealer firms, today announced that Robert Dineen has been named non-executive Chairman of the Board of its parent company, Aretec Group, Inc. Mr. Dineen had previously been named Acting Chairman in September, upon the appointment of Robert J. Moore as the company's Chief Executive Officer.

Robert Dineen was first named to the Board of Directors of Cetera's parent company entity in June 2016. He most recently served at Lincoln Financial Network as Vice Chairman and a member of Lincoln Financial Group's Senior Management Committee. Previously, Mr. Dineen headed Lincoln Financial Network, the retail distribution arm of Lincoln Financial Group, and served as Chief Executive Officer of Lincoln Financial Securities Corporation and Lincoln Financial Advisors Corporation. Mr. Dineen also serves on the Board of Aegon NV, a Dutch life insurance, pensions and asset management company.

Robert J. Moore said, "I am delighted with the appointment of Bob Dineen as our permanent Chairman of the Board. Bob is an exceptionally experienced industry leader who shares our passion for supporting and contributing to the success of our company and the advisors it serves. Bob's insights are invaluable in their impact and influence on our stated intention to help redefine the future of advice and assume our rightful position as a known innovator and thought leader. Equally important, I am very pleased that Bob shares our dedication to promoting best practices in corporate governance in our space, including through the separation the CEO and Chairman roles of our company."

Robert Dineen said, "I am excited to continue my partnership with Robert Moore, the Board and the broader Cetera leadership team in my role as non-executive Chairman of the Board of Cetera's parent company. I believe that the retail financial advice industry is ready to be transformed on a fundamental basis, and I am confident that our strategic plans for the future will reinforce the long-term industry leadership of Cetera Financial Group."

About Cetera Financial Group[®]

Cetera Financial Group ("Cetera") is a leading network of independent retail broker-dealers empowering the delivery of objective financial advice to individuals, families and company retirement plans across the country through trusted financial advisors and financial institutions. Cetera is the second-largest independent financial advisor network in the nation by number of advisors, as well as a leading provider of retail services to the investment programs of banks and credit unions.

Through its multiple distinct firms, Cetera offers independent and institutions-based advisors the benefits of a large, established broker-dealer and registered investment adviser, while serving advisors and institutions in a way that is

customized to their needs and aspirations. Advisor support resources offered through Cetera include award-winning wealth management and advisory platforms, comprehensive broker-dealer and registered investment adviser services, practice management support and innovative technology. For more information, visit www.ceterafinancialgroup.com.

* "Cetera Financial Group" refers to the network of retail independent broker-dealers encompassing, among others, Cetera Advisors, Cetera Advisor Networks, Cetera Financial Institutions, Cetera Financial Specialists, First Allied Securities, Girard Securities and Summit Brokerage Services.

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