



Mark Lapine

Endowment for Families in Business



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAPINE ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF MARK LAPINE ENDOWMENT FOR FAMILIES IN BUSINESS

Mark Lapine Endowment to benefit family businesses in lower Fairfield County

STAMFORD, Conn., October 15, 2013 – Lapine, an award-winning merchandise agency focused on building brands through creative merchandise solutions, today announced the formation of the Mark Lapine Endowment for Families in Business.

The Mark Lapine Endowment for Families in Business was created in honor of the 50th anniversary of Lapine, as well as to recognize Mark Lapine's 50 years of service to the company he founded with his father, David S. Lapine, in 1962. Mark has been a pillar, both within the Lapine company and the community of Stamford. The endowment will serve as a symbol of his character and his lasting contributions. The mission of the endowment is to provide resources to families in business in Stamford and the surrounding community of lower Fairfield County.

"For both my family and our business, the community has always been at the heart of what we do and we are excited for the opportunity to give back to it," said Noah Lapine, president of Lapine. "We've experienced both the challenges and the gifts of a family business and with this endowment we are able to share the resources we were given with others."

Two of Lapine's longstanding collaborators, First County Bank and the University of New Haven Center for Family Business, are joining in partnership with Lapine on establishing the endowment. "First County Bank is proud to join Lapine and the University of New Haven Center for Family Business in providing support and resources for family owned businesses." said Rey Giallongo, Chairman and CEO of First County Bank. "Family owned businesses are imbedded in the fabric of our local community and their success is key to the livelihood of Fairfield County," added Giallongo. Both of these organizations share Lapine's values of giving back to the local community and helping family businesses thrive.

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Lapine attributes much of its longevity and success to the great partners it has worked with over the years that understand the business, as well as the unique needs of a family-owned company. Lapine is confident that these partners will help the endowment flourish as well.

"Family businesses, large and small, make up a significant portion of our economy and the UNH Center for Family Business is proud to have served them for the past 19 years," said Paul Sessions, Director of the UNH CFB. "We are honored that Lapine chose to include us in creating and administering the Mark Lapine Endowment."

One of the goals of this Partnership is to provide information and resources targeting the unique needs of family owned businesses. The group plans to achieve this through a series of informative events and seminars which will help to add value to the local business community. The inaugural event for the Mark Lapine Endowment for Families in Business is scheduled to take place on October 30, 2013 at the Stamford Hilton. More information on the event will be made available closer to the date.

About First County Bank

First County Bank, headquartered in Stamford, Conn. for more than 160 years, is an independent mutual community bank with 15 branches in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk and Westport offering deposit products, mortgages, trust and investment services, business banking services and online banking. First County Bank has more than 220 employees and assets in excess of \$1.3 billion. For additional information, please visit www.firstcountybank.com. Become a fan by clicking "Like" on the bank's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/firstcountybank>. Follow the bank on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/firstcountybank> or look for First County Bank on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/company/920207>.

About University of New Haven Center for Family Business

The Center for Family Business at the University of New Haven is made up of family businesses from throughout Connecticut. The center offers programs and services designed to address issues unique to family enterprises. The mission of the Center for Family Business at UNH is to foster the health and continuity of family businesses by providing a variety of educational and informational services to family business owners and their advisors. They seek to balance the well-being of the business, the family and the individuals involved, to provide opportunities for their members to develop business and advisory relationships with each other, and to strengthen the economic base of Connecticut.

About Lapine

Lapine is an award-winning merchandise agency focused on building brands through creative merchandise solutions. Founded in 1962 by David S. Lapine, Lapine is a family-owned business and one of the fastest-growing merchandise agencies in the U.S. Lapine's expertise spans the entire merchandise process, including creative services, global procurement, supply chain management, technology, merchandise and supplier responsibility. Lapine is headquartered in Stamford, Conn. and serves customers around the globe, including some of the biggest names in the Fortune 500. For additional information, please visit www.lapineinc.com.

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