



July 29, 2008

Portfolio Recovery Associates Reports Second Quarter 2008 Results

EPS Down 6% to \$0.75 as Cash Collections Rise 32% to Record \$85.0 Million; Revenue Up 16% to \$63.6 Million; Portfolio Acquisitions Total \$71.1 Million

NORFOLK, VA, Jul 29, 2008 (MARKET WIRE via COMTEX News Network) -- Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc. (NASDAQ: PRAA), a company that purchases, collects and manages portfolios of defaulted consumer receivables and provides a broad range of accounts receivable management services, today reported net income of \$11.4 million, or \$0.75 per diluted share, for the quarter ended June 30, 2008.

The Company's second-quarter 2008 profit represents a decline of 12% from net income of \$13.0 million, or \$0.80 per diluted share, in the same period a year earlier.

Total revenue in the second quarter of 2008 increased 16% to \$63.6 million, up from \$54.8 million in the year-earlier period. Total revenue consists of cash collections reduced by amounts applied to principal on the Company's owned debt portfolios, plus commissions earned from its fee-for-service businesses. During the second quarter of 2008, the Company applied 37.6% of cash collections to reduce the carrying basis of its owned debt portfolios. This included a \$4.0 million allowance charge, equivalent to approximately \$2.4 million after tax, or 16 cents a diluted share, against certain pools of finance receivables accounts. Amortization was up 940 basis points from 28.2% in Q2 2007.

"Portfolio Recovery Associates continued to make significant strides in positioning the Company for long-term growth during the second quarter. Once again, we had a big quarter in portfolio acquisitions, spending \$71.1 million on defaulted debt. We announced our acquisition of the government revenue enhancement firm MuniServices, LLC, which closed on July 1, and completed winding down our contingent-fee collections business, redeploying its collectors to our owned-portfolio workforce. This was all accomplished as we achieved record cash collections of \$85 million, even in the face of a weakening economic environment," said Steven D. Fredrickson, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Financial and Operating Highlights

-- Cash collections rose 32% to a record \$85.0 million in the second quarter of 2008, up from \$64.6 million in the year-ago period. Call center collections and other increased 30%, legal collections grew 7% and purchased bankruptcy collections gained 120% when compared with the year-earlier period.

The table below displays our cash collections by source, by quarter

Cash Collection Source (\$ in thousands)	Q22008	Q12008	Q42007	Q32007	Q22007
Call Center Collections & Other	\$ 48,839	\$ 46,702	\$ 36,994	\$ 37,450	\$ 37,464
Legal	22,471	21,880	20,861	21,384	20,911
Purchased Bankruptcy	13,732	10,820	7,245	6,317	6,231
Cash Collection Source (\$ in thousands)	Q12007	Q42006	Q32006	Q22006	
Call Center Collections & Other	\$ 39,241	\$ 32,437	\$ 32,686	\$ 33,736	
Legal	20,844	19,762	19,607	19,058	
Purchased Bankruptcy	7,223	6,581	7,390	6,645	

-- Productivity, as measured by cash collections per hour paid, the Company's key measure of collector performance, finished at \$134.56 for the

first six months of 2008, down slightly from \$135.77 for all of 2007. Excluding the impact of trustee remittances from purchased bankrupt accounts, the comparison is \$115.71 for the first half of 2008 vs. \$123.10 for all of 2007.

- Revenue was \$63.6 million in the second quarter, up 16% from \$54.8 million in the same period a year ago.
- The Company purchased \$957 million of face-value debt during the second quarter of 2008 for \$71.1 million. This debt was acquired in 58 portfolios from 21 different sellers.
- The Company's fee-for-service businesses generated revenue of \$10.6 million in the second quarter of 2008, up 26% from \$8.4 million in the same period a year ago.
- On July 1, 2008, the Company completed its acquisition of MuniServices, LLC, a revenue enhancement firm based in Fresno, California. The transaction was announced on June 24, 2008.
- The Company's cash balances were \$16.3 million as of June 30, 2008, down slightly from \$16.8 million as of March 31, 2008. Also during the quarter, the Company made net draws of \$17.5 million on its line of credit, leaving it with \$234.3 million in outstanding borrowings at quarter's end. Remaining borrowing availability under the line was \$105.7 million at quarter's end.

"During the second quarter, Portfolio Recovery Associates made some important gains in operating efficiency. We brought up the productivity of our new Jackson, Tenn., call center, which in June performed at nearly 80% of our top facility. We also continued to address operating expenses, which improved in the quarter as a percentage of cash receipts. Earnings performance was impacted by high amortization expense, which included allowance charges that totaled \$4.0 million. Although our 2008 purchases have been outperforming their initial accounting forecasts, we believe current economic conditions guide us toward more prudent accounting projections. In this environment we are generally quick to take allowances when we see weakness but at the same time are generally slower to increase accounting forecasts until trends are especially well established. In aggregate, however, record cash collections and strong portfolio buying highlight the fact that the second quarter represented a very solid performance for the Company," said Kevin P. Stevenson, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer.

The Company's first-half 2008 earnings totaled \$23.3 million, or \$1.53 per diluted share, compared with \$25.9 million, or \$1.60 per diluted share, for the first six months of 2007. First-half 2008 revenue was \$127.8 million, compared with \$108.8 million in the first half of 2007.

Conference Call Information

The Company will hold a conference call with investors tonight, Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. EDT to discuss its second quarter results. Investors can access the call live by dialing 888-680-0865 for domestic callers or 617-213-4853 for international callers using the pass code 45844154.

In addition, investors may listen to the call via a taped replay, which will be available for seven days, by dialing 888-286-8010 for domestic callers and 617-801-6888 for international callers using the pass code 53714627. The replay will be available approximately two hours after today's conference call ends. Investors may also listen via webcast, both live and archived, at the Company's website, www.portfoliorecovery.com.

About Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.

Portfolio Recovery Associates is a full-service provider of outsourced receivables management and related services. The Company's primary business is the purchase, collection and management of portfolios of defaulted consumer receivables. These are the unpaid obligations of individuals to credit originators, which include banks, credit unions, consumer and auto finance companies, and retail merchants. Portfolio Recovery Associates also provides a broad range of collection services, including revenue administration for government entities through its RDS and MuniServices businesses, collateral-location services for credit originators via IGS Nevada, and fee-based collections through Anchor Receivables Management.

Statements herein which are not historical, including Portfolio Recovery Associates' or management's intentions, hopes, beliefs, expectations, representations, projections, plans or predictions of the future, including statements with respect to future contributions of IGS Nevada, RDS and MuniServices to earnings and future portfolio-purchase opportunities, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements include references to Portfolio Recovery Associates' presentations and web casts. The forward-looking statements in this press release are based upon management's beliefs, assumptions and expectations of the Company's future operations and economic performance, taking into account currently available information. These statements are not statements of historical fact. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, some of which are not currently known to us. Actual events or results may differ from those expressed or implied in any such forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including the risk factors and other risks that are described from time to time in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission including but not limited to its annual reports on Form 10-K, its quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and its current reports on Form 8-K, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and available through the Company's website, which contain a more detailed discussion of the Company's business, including risks and uncertainties that may affect future results. Due to such uncertainties and risks, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. Information in this press release may be superseded by more recent information or statements, which may be disclosed in later press releases, subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission or otherwise. The Company expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in the Company's expectations with regard thereto or to reflect any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such forward-looking statements are based, in whole or in part.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.
 Unaudited Consolidated Income Statements
 (in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2008	Three Months Ended June 30, 2007	Six Months Ended June 30, 2008	Six Months Ended June 30, 2007
Revenues:				
Income recognized on finance receivables, net	\$ 53,047	\$ 46,387	\$ 105,675	\$ 91,853
Commissions	10,567	8,389	22,043	16,931
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Total revenues	63,614	54,776	127,718	108,784
Operating expenses:				
Compensation and employee services	20,872	16,681	41,999	33,116
Outside legal and other fees and services	15,118	11,246	29,691	22,683
Communications	2,403	2,005	5,272	3,889
Rent and occupancy	869	739	1,707	1,398
Other operating expenses	1,595	1,478	2,951	2,862
Depreciation and amortization	1,507	1,362	2,976	2,657
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Total operating expenses	42,364	33,511	84,596	66,605
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Income from operations	21,250	21,265	43,122	42,179
Other income and (expense):				
Interest income	3	121	33	300
Interest expense	(2,649)	(339)	(5,149)	(405)
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Income before income taxes	18,604	21,047	38,006	42,074
Provision for income taxes	7,178	8,058	14,708	16,204
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Net income	\$ 11,426	\$ 12,989	\$ 23,298	\$ 25,870
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Net income per common share:				
Basic	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.81	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.62

Diluted	\$	0.75	\$	0.80	\$	1.53	\$	1.60
Weighted average number of shares outstanding:								
Basic		15,193		16,005		15,182		15,999
Diluted		15,268		16,168		15,252		16,154

Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.
Unaudited Consolidated Summary Balance Sheets
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

ASSETS	June 30, 2008	December 31, 2007
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 16,333	\$ 16,730
Finance receivables, net	515,367	410,297
Income taxes receivable	3,539	3,022
Property and equipment, net	17,332	16,171
Goodwill	18,620	18,620
Intangible assets, net	4,322	5,046
Other assets	5,775	6,421
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Total assets	\$ 581,288	\$ 476,307
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LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 14,110	\$ 15,345
Deferred tax liability	72,577	57,579
Line of credit	234,300	168,000
Obligations under capital lease	45	103
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Total liabilities	321,032	241,027
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Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, par value \$0.01, authorized shares, 2,000, issued and outstanding shares - 0	-	-
Common stock, par value \$0.01, authorized shares, 30,000, issued and outstanding shares - 15,197 at June 30, 2008 and 15,159 at December 31, 2007	152	152
Additional paid-in capital	73,121	71,443
Retained earnings	186,983	163,685
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Total stockholders' equity	260,256	235,280
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Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 581,288	\$ 476,307
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Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.
Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(in thousands)

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2008	Six Months Ended June 30, 2007
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 23,298	\$ 25,870
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Amortization of share-based compensation	1,163	1,364
Depreciation and amortization	2,976	2,657
Deferred tax expense	14,998	10,517

Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Other assets	646	(271)
Accounts payable	575	(435)
Income tax receivable	(517)	(721)
Accrued expenses	176	821
Accrued payroll and bonuses	(1,986)	(1,918)
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Net cash provided by operating activities	41,329	37,884
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Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(3,413)	(3,993)
Acquisition of finance receivables, net of buybacks	(163,839)	(102,263)
Collections applied to principal on finance receivables	58,769	40,062
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Net cash used in investing activities	(108,483)	(66,194)
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Cash flows from financing activities:		
Dividends paid	-	(16,070)
Proceeds from exercise of options	297	1,298
Income tax benefit from share-based compensation	218	952
Proceeds from line of credit	83,800	41,000
Principal payments on lines of credit	(17,500)	(3,000)
Repurchase of common stock	-	(5,190)
Principal payments on long-term debt	-	(671)
Principal payments on capital lease obligations	(58)	(69)
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Net cash provided by financing activities	66,757	18,250
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Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(397)	(10,060)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	16,730	25,101
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Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 16,333	\$ 15,041
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Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 5,205	\$ 211
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 2	\$ 5,260

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