The Source for Real Estate Finance

Featuring Randy Reiff, CEO of FirstKey Lending, LLC

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#### SPECIAL ISSUE

*Exclusive interview with Tim Herriage, Managing Director of B2R Finance* 

> Leonard Rosen writes on Why Bankers Rule

Plus, Insight from GCA Equity Partners

# **FirstKey Lending Offers Innovation**

Makes 30 Year Loans Available to Portfolio Borrowers

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Photo right: Tim Herriage, Managing Director for B2R Finance

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**PRIVATE MONEY 411 Cover:** Randy Reiff, CEO of FirstKey Lending, LLC, introduces 30-year mortgage loans for portfolio borrowers.

**Below:** Mingle with hundreds of active investors in Silicon Valley. Private Money411 will be hosting an industry gathering with a focus on technology and finance. For more information, see pages 5 and 6.

rancisco

Pacifica

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Photo above: Leonard Rosen, CEO of Pitbull Hard Money Conference



Photo left: Wyatt Gilbert joins Applied Business Software





#### Meet the Leaders of Real Estate Finance

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# **B2R Predicts Strong Year Ahead** for Rental Home Market

When B2R Finance launched its first products in late 2013, it was a game changer for rental property investors. The company was among the first to offer a financing option designed specifically for small to midsized buy-and-hold real estate investors.

Fast forward a year, and the company is growing rapidly, indicating a bright future for B2R and the single-family rental market. This year, according to Managing Director Tim Herriage, B2R has ramped up to meet the pent-up demand as one of just a handful of companies offering this type of product, and has added approximately 50 employees spread across three offices in Charlotte, New York and Dallas. The company is also looking to the future, shoring up its leadership team by adding highly strategic and experienced leaders in new roles of CFO, COO and CEO.

Realty 411 asked Herriage, also a longtime investor in the single family rental market, what's next for the sector.

Herriage: We remain bullish in our outlook for a number of reasons.

First and foremost, demand remains high. As your readers are well aware, 98 percent of the nation's estimated 14 million single family rental homes are owned by smaller investors, but access to credit for these investors had previously been incredibly restrictive – of the millions of homes owned by small investors, 10 million are not financed. In Realty411Guide.com

About Tim Herriage, Managing Director and Head of Marketing and Business Development A 12-year real estate investment veteran, Tim has purchased more than 1,000 single-family houses, many of which he holds as rental property today. He is the founder of the largest individual investor-focused trade show in the U.S., the REI Expo, building on his passion for real estate investing and the opportunity it represents for those who want to take control of their retirements. He is a graduate of the Naval War College and served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

last four years.

short, these

homes were

unleveraged

because of a

gap in the mar-

ket. B2R and our

competitors fill the

gap. As these smaller in-

vestors become more liquid, we

could see them pursue additional invest-

properties, adding activity to the market.

ue lost during the Great Recession. While

overall opportunity, most of the investors

we encounter have always acquired sound,

cash-flowing rental homes from traditional

sources. Fewer homes underwater actually

Changing demographics also serve to

Housing Studies, 35 percent of households

mean an increase in the overall value of

bolster the SFR market. According to a

report from the Harvard Joint Center for

rent, up from 31 percent in 2004, and of

them, 20 percent report no intentions to

buy, either because of macroeconomic

for reasons of preference or lifestyle.

conditions, personal financial concerns or

A growing renter base leads to lower

vacancy rates, which has led to favorable

rents for our investors. The average na-

our investors' portfolios.

there is some speculation that declining

foreclosure activity might weaken the

ment properties or reinvest in their current

Second, homes continue to recover val-

Overall, the market is strong, with returns averaging 9 percent, according to Daren Blomquist, vice president at RealtyTrac, and annual gross returns reached as high as 41.57 percent in Edgecombe County, N.C., the highest of all the 586 counties recently analyzed.

A recent Yahoo Finance story probably sums it up best. In the Oct. 31 article, an investment banker who focuses on putting together deals that package loans to investors noted, "The real market is this market. It's where everything is actually going to get to."

#### About B2R Finance:

B2R Finance, America's Buy to Rent Lender, is the leading provider of residential buy-to-rent mortgages for property investors, with offices in New York, Charlotte and Dallas. The Company offers effective and innovative lending solutions dedicated to residential rental property investors. B2R operates in partnership with the nation's leading commercial and residential real estate experts to ensure that its loan products and customer service are in the forefront of the growing residential rental investment market. B2R can assist any size investor with a variety of lending products to enhance customer investment. Further information is available at <u>www.b2rfinance.com</u> or on Twitter (a)B2RFinance.

tional effective rent rose 12 percent in the PAGE 6 • 2015

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# THE PERSON WHO UNDERWRITES YOUR

By Leonard Rosen, CEO Pitbull Conference

> n todays sophisticated real estate market, there are many ways to build your business. There are those people who chose to buy and sell real property, and there are those who choose to fund real estate deals. But lurking in the shad-

ows is a secret person called the underwriter. The underwriter's primary job is to provide their opinion and exercise their authority over your book of business. The underwriter is not your friend. Their primary function of the underwriter does not always align with your goals.

As an advocate for the private lending business, I see a significant amount of business turned down or swept under the carpet on deals that could be or should be funded. Keep in mind, under-



This scenario happens all the time, leaving the broker with a situation that does not generate a commission. At the end of the day, we all work for

I see a significant amount of business turned down or swept under the carpet on deals that could be or should be funded.

deals, owns your business and future.

writing criteria changes often and what once was a great deal to fund, today for some unforeseen reason, the deal gets turned down because the underwriter doesn't have an appetite for the type of business your are submitting.

reasonable compensation.

The simple question is why are you giving control and of your business and control of your future to another person? This business model makes



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# **FIRSTKEY LENDING Continues to Innovate**



#### Makes 30 Year Loans Available to Portfolio Borrowers

irstKey Lending revolutionized the real estate market for entrepreneurs investing in residential rental properties when it began offering its one of a kind single-property loan product earlier this year. A fully amortizing 30-year fixed rate loan with competitive rates and no prepayment penalty. FirstKey's Express single-property loan product offered entrepreneurial landlords the ability to manage their cash flow by avoiding interest rate risk and large balloon payments at the end of the loan term.

"We saw immediate demand for our Express property loans," says Randy Reiff, CEO of FirstKey Lending. But, as a market leader, FirstKey is committed to making it even easier to invest in one- to four- family rentals and is constantly innovating to provide additional financing options to current and prospective customers.

Responding to the success of its Express property loan product, FirstKey recently made significant enhancements to the Express program to bring the benefits of this unique product to entrepreneurial customers who own portfolios of more than 10 properties.

FirstKey is now also offering 30-year fixed rate solutions for portfolio loans of up to \$5 million dollars with no restrictions on the number of properties financed. Like the single property loan, these portfolio



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February 9-10, 2015 London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel, London, UK



## **Family Office Winter Forum**

March 10, 2015 New York Marriott Marquis, New York, NY



#### Family Office & Endowment Investment Forum

April 15-16, 2015 Sheraton Centre Toronto, Toronto, ON



# European Family Office & Private Wealth

June 3-4, 2015 Amsterdam, Netherlands



#### Family Office & Private Wealth Forum

July 20-22, 2015 Hyatt Regency Newport, Newport, RI

#### FirstKey Lending offers innovative opportunities, pg. 10

loans have no prepayment penalties, making them even more attractive for entrepreneurial investors who want to lock in long-term financing but maintain flexibility to sell assets or manage their investments.

"The needs of entrepreneurial investors are not necessarily the same as institutional investors. With the introduction of this product, we are giving customers who are a bit less rate-sensitive the ability to choose a long term, fixed rate solution with complete prepayment flexibility," said Reiff. "Recognizing that the needs and aspirations of entrepreneurial borrowers might change over time is what inspired the original 30-year property product, and we are now thrilled to make it available for customers who want to borrow up to \$5 million against their multi-property portfolios."

FirstKey was the first national lender to target entrepreneurial borrowers in the rental finance space and has prided itself on innovating a wide variety of programs meant to make it easier to invest in the SFR market.

For FirstKey, it's not just about the borrower's credit score, but the strength of the borrower's investment. FirstKey looks primarily at the property's value and the cash flows to determine the investment's ability to service and ultimately repay the debt. This evaluation model can make FirstKey's financing products accessible to a wide range of customers. Featuring Randy Reiff, CEO of FirstKey Lending

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## FirstKey Lending Offers Innovation

Makes 30 Year Loans Available to Portfolio Borrowers

### "With the introduction of this product, we are giving customers who are a bit less rate-sensitive the ability to choose a long term, fixed rate solution with complete prepayment flexibility," said Reiff.

For entrepreneurial investors more interested in optimizing rate than term, FirstKey continues to offer Express portfolio loans under \$5 million for 5, 7 or 10 years at some of the lowest fixed rates available in the SFR space.

FirstKey's wide range of products also includes options for many other types of investors. Premier provides non-recourse loans from \$5,000,000 to \$500 million to mid-size and institutional rental investors. For entrepreneurs more focused on fixing properties and selling them, FirstKey also offers loans for rehab projects between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 through its Fix & Flip program.

"We are proud to continue innovating and improving our market-leading products to serve the unique needs of our entrepreneurial and institutional investors," said Reiff. "Whether one property or 10,000, our suite of SFR finance products provides a variety of solutions to the entire spectrum of investors.

FirstKey continues to simplify the logistics of all its programs, streamlining the documentation process and increasing the ease of closing. These efforts make it easier to manage expenses and navigate the process for customers who may be financing their investments for the first time.

FirstKey is backed by Cerberus Capital Management L.P., one of the country's largest private investment funds, giving it the resources it needs to continue advancing in the market. FirstKey management said the recent moves were an effort to continue offering exciting new options and the value that its customers have come to expect.

More information, please visit: http://firstkeylending.com



#### Now is the time to put your big boy (or big girl) shoes on and grow your business model up.

Do you, like many brokers, spend most of your time looking for a lending source? Are you chasing bad deals because you don't know they're bad?

Don't settle for being good at what you do, be the best by attending Pitbull's next National Hard Money Conference, February 20th in Las Vegas. Presentations by seasoned lenders, brokers and service providers will give you the invaluable insight needed to cut your learning curve in half.

And if you already know a thing or two about hard money, there are still plenty of reasons to attend. Participate in our "Bring Your Deal" segment, where attendees are allowed to present a deal to the entire house. Deals happen.

Network with investors, lenders, and vendors. Discover the advantages of becoming the bank, which allows you to dictate points and spreads yourself. Sound daunting? It's not. Sound liberating? It is.

So, be a big boy or girl and grow your business model up. See you in Vegas!

# **Pitbull's 36th National** Hard Money Conference February 20, 2015 The M Resort Spa & Casino Las Vegas

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#### Is Owning Investment Property the Best Way to Generate Income Insights by Tom Thomas Braegelmann and Charles Tralka, GCA Equity Partners, LLC Insights GCA Equity Partners, LLC



## I Want to Share a Secret with You...

I used to believe that the only way to generate income through real estate investing was by owning property and renting it out. I bought (and later sold) single family rental houses, fixed them up whenever necessary, and found tenants for each of them.

What I quickly learned was that being a landlord wasn't as easy as I expected. I had to deal with tenant issues and maintenance problems, and pay for "extras" I hadn't really considered like insurance and property taxes. (I quickly found out why landlords like to complain about the "three Ts" – tenants, toilets, and taxes!)

I didn't realize that there was another way to create income through real estate investing – a way that more sophisticated investors had figured out which earned them solid returns without the hassles of owning property directly. It's called "private lending".

#### WHY I LIKE PRIVATE LENDING

Private lending simply means providing loans that are secured by real property. The investor/ lender earns money by collecting interest for their loans and in some cases can also profit from appreciation in the property that they are lending against. Private lending isn't for every investor, but the following are some of the reasons why I like it as part of my real estate investment strategy.

 The returns can be as good, or better than those you get from renting property.
Your loan is secured by the equity in the property you are lending against.

3) Since you don't own the property, you don't have to manage tenant or maintenance issues.

4) You can invest in loans made against a wide range of property types.

5) Many different lending models are available from one investor / one loan to pooled

funds.

#### DIFFERENT PRIVATE LENDING MODELS

The most basic private lending model is to provide first mortgages to individuals or entities that need them to buy or refinance a property. In this case, the loans may be structured in two ways. First, as fully amortized, meaning principal and interest are repaid together on a regular, periodic basis. Alternatively, as interest only, meaning only regular, periodic interest is paid during the life of the loan, with the principal repaid in a single balloon payment at the end of the loan.

Another model is to provide second mortgages to borrowers, typically for a higher rate of interest and structured as fully amortized or interest-only loans. These second mortgages can be higher risk since, in the event of a default, foreclosure, and/or property sale – the first mortgages are paid off first and any remaining money is used to pay the second or further subordinated mortgages.

A third model is known as shared equity. In this model, the lender provides the borrower with a loan in return for interest and a share of the appreciation in the property when it is resold. Shared equity models typically only apply

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# Applied Business Software Software Expanding

- TECHNOLOGY -

A pplied Business Software makers of The MortgageTM Office recently announced the hiring of Wyatt Gilbert, National Sales, to further develop their growing presence with The Loan Office™ software launched this past April 22, 2014.

The Loan OfficeTM software has been classified as affordable. easy to use software, specifically designed for the small lender. Some of its features include: QuickBooks integration, built-in document scanning, loan charges and advances tracking, recurring and event driven reminders. unearned discounts. email statements and notices, incremental funding, conversation log, insurance and senior liens tracking, unlimited user-defined fields, Microsoft Office integration, and much more.

The Loan OfficeTM software has been quickly gaining momentum since its launch mid last year with a record ending year in sales and customer satisfaction, typical of Applied Business Soft-



ware products.

Now, under the headship of Wyatt Gilbert, TLO is expected to beat a sales record on this 2015. Wyatt comes with a wealth of experience in the IT world where he began his career. before moving into the auto commercial equipment industry. His has a keen sense of knowledge of The Loan Office<sup>™</sup> software and feels, in his words "fortunate to have joined a group of talented developers and loan servicing connoisseurs. I'm excited about the future of The Loan Office™ software. Having an unparalleled product with exceptional Tech Support to back it up, undoubtedly separates ABS from the competition; and with the introduction of The Loan Office™, we can now offer our solutions to what is considered a smaller lender and subsequently, a larger audience"

#### GCA Equity Partners, pg. 15

A third model is known as shared equity. In this model, the lender provides the borrower with a loan in return for interest and a share of the appreciation in the property when it is resold. Shared equity models typically only apply to properties that have strong appreciation potential, such as so-called "fix-and-flip" deals or new construction. However, when this model applies, it can increase the return potential by adding an equity-based component to the standard interest-only model.

#### PRIVATE LENDING FUNDS

While much of the private lending activity is single or multiple investors supporting a single borrower, there is another model based on an investment fund. In this approach, a fund manager organizes a collection of investments from multiple investors, and then uses the pool of money in the fund to make loans to borrowers. Currently, there are a variety of real estate mortgage funds available, with a range of investment strategies including the same ones described previously for individual investors. Investing in funds, or mortgage pools, has both advantages and disadvantages relative to individual private lendina.

advantage is that capital efficiency is typically higher, since it's easier for a fund manager to match their larger pool of capital to particular deals and thus keep the funds more fully invested. Another is diversification, since funds from each investor are distributed across multiple loans.

Some investors may find a disadvantage, in that they like to review their own loans and make their own decisions about whether or not to lend on a particular deal. With fund investing, those decisions are made by the fund manager rather than the individual. Of course, for other investors, having a professional manager evaluate the deal is actually seen as an advantage.

Private lending can be a great way to invest in real estate without the hassle of owning property, dealing with maintenance issues, or managing tenants. It focuses on the financial aspects of real estate investing by allowing individual investors (by themselves or as part of a fund) to essentially become the bank and to finance real estate transactions using the security of the real estate as collateral.

To learn more about private lending, contact GCA Equity Partners, LLC at 408-369-1571, x101 or email: info@ GCAEquityPart ners.com.



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One



A group photograph of Pitbull's Hard Money Conference in California. Pitbull events attract investors from throughout the country.

#### Leonard Rosen on Why Bankers Rule, pg. 10

in diversifying their portfolio. The capital investors contributions are pooled together in your real estate fund. Once the capital is in your fund, you deploy the capital into the market based on funding criteria that you have established. You receive compensation for origination fees as well as arbitrage spreads, management and service fees.



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The investment model, as well as other opportunities, such as syndication and joint ventures, are discussed in detail at our national hard money conferences held twice annually. If private money is of interest, join investors from around the country to learn, collaborate and increase connections.

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#### **REAL ESTATE - INVESTING - TECH**



Residential real estate investors aren't used to having easy options for financing, re-financing and unlocking equity from their rental properties. Until now.

#### "B2R walked us through the process and made sure we were comfortable every step of the way." - Brian Evans

At B2R Finance, residential rental mortgages are all we do. That means we're committed to finding faster, easier and smarter options for you. For example, we provide blanket loans allowing you to eliminate multiple mortgages and "package" several properties into a single loan. We also make asset-based loans that consider the cash flow of your rental property rather than your personal debt-to-income ratio.

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