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**GBQ Expands in Cincinnati through Addition of Ernst & Rabe**  
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**Cincinnati, OH, January 4, 2016:** On January 1, 2016, Ernst & Rabe (E&R) and their team of tax and accounting experts, joined forces with GBQ Partners LLC, a top 200 tax, accounting and consulting firm headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

Columbus-based GBQ has grown its footprint to three new cities in the last five years through new offices, strategic hires and acquisitions, giving the firm a total of five offices in four states.

"GBQ is excited to expand in Cincinnati and welcomes the staff and clients of Ernst & Rabe. GBQ is growing in the Cincinnati market, responding to increasing demand for our services. Joining with E&R is one important step we're taking to strategically manage the growth," said Darci Congrove, Managing Director. "We are delighted with this acquisition, which is consistent with our strategy for expanding and strengthening our market presence. Importantly, E&R is a firm with a highly complementary culture, and shares our commitment to providing service of exceptional quality, integrity and objectivity."

E&R founder and Managing Member, William Ernst, and his team join GBQ to bring the total staff count to 160. Ernst, along with Partners Steve Rabe and Paul Gaffney, each have more than 30 years of accounting and tax experience, and will lead GBQ's Cincinnati office.

"What attracted E&R to GBQ was the opportunity to enhance our service offerings to existing clients, by combining with the specialized resources of a larger professional services firm. Our team is excited to have GBQ's resources and dedication to client service available to our clients. GBQ's obvious commitment to the development and retention of its people was also compelling," said Ernst. "We will be able to offer clients a seamless union with staff continuity and zero service disruption in addition to the various resources GBQ has to offer. We look forward to serving the business community as part of GBQ with the same commitment and personalized service to which our clients have been accustomed," added Ernst.

**About GBQ**

As a Top 200 firm, GBQ has offices in Columbus, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Philadelphia and New York. With over 160 associates, we are large enough to handle the needs of today's complex and progressive organizations, while providing close personal attention. As an independent member of the BDO Alliance USA, GBQ has access to global resources through a network of accounting and consulting firms.

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