

WILLIAM SCHECHTER

I N C O R P O R A T E D



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Ron Thompkins of Watson Rice LLP
Heads Florida Institute of CPA's**

Miami, FL, August 10, 2000 ... Ron Thompkins, Office Managing Partner of the Florida Practice for New York-based Watson Rice LLP, has been elected President of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA). He also serves as Watson Rice's National Quality Control Partner.

Among issues that Mr. Thompkins is addressing in his new post are the declining number of students entering the accounting profession, the need for a new home for Florida's Board of Accountancy following the State's governmental restructuring, and the challenge of keeping up with the rapid growth of dot.com companies.

Mr. Thompkins continues to perform quality and peer reviews for AICPA firm membership; to oversee the work of the FICPA's Governance and Restructure Task Force; to maintain active membership in the Council of the American Institute of CPA's; and is a Trustee and former Chairman of the FICPA Education Foundation.

He also is a member of the National Association of Black Accountants; associate member of the Government Finance Officer's Association; serves as Vice Chairperson of

