

October 27, 2011

Portfolio Recovery Associates Reports Third Quarter 2011 Results

NORFOLK, VA, Oct 27, 2011 (MARKETWIRE via COMTEX) --

Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc. (NASDAQ: PRAA), a specialized financial services company and market leader in the consumer debt purchase and collection industry, today reported results for the quarter ended September 30, 2011.

Third Quarter Highlights

- -- Revenue increased 20% to \$114.3 million as cash collections grew 33% to a record \$182.2 million
- -- Net income of \$25.5 million, an increase of 38% over the comparable year-ago period
- -- EPS totaled \$1.48 in the quarter, compared with EPS of \$1.08 in the third quarter of 2010
- -- Portfolio acquisitions totaled \$122.1 million

"Our third quarter results are indicative of our efforts to drive the top line, identify and improve operational efficiencies and maintain a strong and flexible capital structure," said Steven D. Fredrickson, chairman, president and chief executive officer. "The key drivers of our results continue to be strong cash collections from both bankruptcy and core portfolios, supported by an impressive performance at our call centers. We were able to deliver these results despite a weak and volatile economy. Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on strengthening our core business, reducing costs and allocating the necessary resources to support continued growth in our fee-for-service businesses."

Total revenues for the third quarter of 2011 grew 20% from the year-earlier period to \$114.3 million. Total revenues consist of cash collections reduced by amounts applied to principal on the Company's owned debt portfolios, plus fee income earned from our fee-for-service businesses. During the third quarter of 2011, the Company applied 43.5% of cash collections to reduce the carrying value of its owned debt portfolios, up from 41.8% in the third quarter of 2010. The third quarter 2011 principal amortization rate included a \$741,000 net allowance charge against certain pools of finance receivables accounts.

Financial and Operating Review

Kevin P. Stevenson, chief financial and administrative officer, said: "The earnings power of our debt purchase business was evident during Q3, as our strong results from both bankrupt and core portfolios more than overcame soft performance at our fee-for-service businesses."

-- Cash collections rose 33% to a record \$182.2 million in the third quarter of 2011, up from \$137.4 million in the year-ago period. Call center and other collections increased 24%, external legal collections increased 35%, internal legal collections grew 36%, and purchased bankruptcy collections gained 40% when compared with the year-earlier period. The table below displays cash collections by source, by quarter for the past five quarters:

of 2011 from \$12.1 million in the year-ago quarter. Internal legal collections, in which the Company uses its own staff, represent an important, developing collections channel.

- -- Productivity rose to a record \$245 per collector hour paid for the first nine months of 2011 from \$194 for all of 2010. Productivity, the Company's key measure of collector performance, is measured by cash collections per collector hour paid. Excluding the impact of trustee remittances on purchased bankrupt accounts, the comparison is \$156 for the first three quarters of 2011, compared to \$129 for all of 2010. Excluding trustee remittances on purchased bankrupt accounts and external legal collections, the comparison is \$118 for the first nine months of 2011 and \$100 for all of 2010.
- -- In the third quarter of 2011, total revenues were \$114.3 million, up 20% compared with the same period a year ago. This was driven by record cash receipts of \$193.6 million in the third quarter, up 27% from \$152.9 million a year earlier. Cash receipts are comprised of both cash collections and revenues from the Company's fee-for-service businesses.
- -- The Company's net allowance charge totaled \$0.7 million in the third quarter of 2011, representing 0.08% of net finance receivables at period-end and 0.41% of cash collections.
- -- The Company purchased \$5.68 billion of face-value debt during the third quarter of 2011 for \$122.1 million. This was acquired in 95 portfolios from 12 different sellers.
- -- The Company's fee-for-service businesses generated revenues of \$11.4 million in the third quarter of 2011, a decline of 27% from the same period a year ago due largely to a decrease in revenues generated by PRA Location Services. Together, the fee-for-service businesses accounted for 10% of the Company's overall revenues in the third quarter of 2011, down from 16% in the third quarter of 2010.
- -- Cash balances were \$30.0 million as of September 30, 2011, down from \$41.1 million as of December 31, 2010. During the third quarter of 2011, the Company had net borrowings of \$10 million on its line of credit, leaving it with \$260 million in outstanding borrowings at quarter end. Remaining borrowing availability under the line was \$147.5 million as of September 30, 2011.

The Company's earnings for the first nine months of 2011 totaled \$74.2 million, or \$4.31 per diluted share, compared with \$52.8 million, or \$3.15 per diluted share, for the first nine months of 2010. Year-to-date 2011 revenues were \$340.8 million, compared to \$272.0 million in the first nine months of 2010.

Conference Call Information The Company will hold a conference call with investors this evening at 5:30 p.m. EDT, Thursday, October 27, 2011, to discuss its third-quarter results. Investors can access the call by dialing 888-679-8034 for domestic callers or 617-213-4847 for international callers using the pass code 49267189. The replay will be available approximately one hour after the call ends and will remain available for seven days. Investors can access the replay of the call by dialing 888-286-8010 for domestic callers or 617-801-6888 for international callers using the pass code 68599056.

Investors may also listen to the conference call via webcast, both live and archived, at the Company's website, www.portfoliorecovery.com at the Investor Relations main page.

About Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.

Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc. (NASDAQ: PRAA), a specialized financial services company, is a market leader in the consumer debt purchase and collection industry. The Company, which has purchased more than \$63 billion of face value defaulted consumer debt since its inception, has operations in 10 states, more than 27 million customer accounts and more than 2,500 employees. Portfolio Recovery Associates also provides a broad range of fee-based services through its subsidiaries: PRA Government Services, LLC; MuniServices, LLC; PRA Location Services, LLC; and Claims Compensation Bureau, LLC. Working every day with people in financial distress, the Company seeks to engage collaboratively with its customers to create realistic, affordable repayment plans. Portfolio Recovery Associates has a longstanding culture of compliance, and for five consecutive years has been named to the Forbes 100 Best Small Companies in America annual

rankings list (2007 - 2011). Additional information about Portfolio Recovery Associates is available at www.portfoliorecovery.com.

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 future revenue and earnings growth, statements with respect to future contributions of its subsidiaries 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 guarterly 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.

Three

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Nine

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

Three

	Ended September 30,	September 30, 2010	Ended September 30,	Ended September 30, 2010
Revenues:				
Income recognized on				
finance receivables, net				
Fee income		15,518		
Total revenues	114,276	95,544	340,848	271,951
Operating expenses:				
Compensation and employee				
services	33,475	31,213	102,443	91,725
Legal collection fees	5,962	4,577	17,681	12,779
Legal collection costs	9,731	9,329	28,949	21,398
Agent fees	1,643	2,842	6,005	9,396
Outside fees and services	6,222	3,470		
Communications	5,865	4,000	17,884	13,160
Rent and occupancy	1,517	1,362	4,353	3,912
Depreciation and				
amortization		3,294		
Other operating expenses	2,808	2,634	9,161	7,488
Total operating expenses	70,446	62,721	209,933	178,362
Gain on sale of property	-		1,157	

Income from operations	43,830	32,823	132,072	93,589
Other income and (expense): Interest income Interest expense	 (2,555)	- (2,178) 	(8,057)	(6,535)
Income before income taxes	41,282	30,645	124,022	87,089
Provision for income taxes	 16,089	11,888	49,544	33,847
Net income	\$ 25,193	\$ 18,757	\$ 74,478	\$ 53,242
Less net (loss)/income attributable to redeemable noncontrolling interest		276	277	431
Net income attributable to Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.	\$ 25,506 	18,481	74,201 	52,811
Net income per common share: Basic Diluted	\$	1.08	4.34 4.31	
Weighted average number of shares outstanding: Basic Diluted	17,117 17,228		17,106 17,218	

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

September 30, December 31, ASSETS 2011 2010 -----

Cash and cash equivalents \$ 30,035 \$ 41,094 Finance receivables, net 919,478 831,330 Accounts receivable, net 6,462 8,932 Property and equipment, net 22,975 24,270 Goodwill 61,678 61,678 Intangible assets, net 14,748 18,466 Other assets 8,728 10,138 ------

Total assets \$ 1,064,104 \$ 995,908 -----

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Total liabilities 478,915 490,943 -----

Redeemable noncontrolling Interest 16,884 14,449 -----

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, 60,000, 17,118 issued and outstanding shares at September 30, 2011, and 17,064 issued and outstanding shares at December 31, 2010 171 171 Additional paid-in capital 167,126 163,538

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity \$ 1,064,104 \$ 995,908 -----

Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc. Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (in thousands)

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011	Ended
Cash flows from operating activities: Net income Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:	\$ 74,478	\$ 53,242
Amortization of share-based compensation Depreciation and amortization	6,110 9,756	9,050
Deferred tax expense Gain on sale of property Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	27,327 (1,157)	
Other assets	(953)	(244)
Accounts receivable	2,470	1,380
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,141	•
Net cash provided by operating activities	· ·	103,406
Cash flows from investing activities: Purchases of property and equipment Proceeds from sale of property Acquisition of finance receivables, net of	(4,854) 1,267	(6,162)
buybacks Collections applied to principal on finance		(273,858)
receivables Business acquisitions, net of cash acquired	226,014	160,081 (23,000)
Contingent payment made for business acquisition	-	(104)
Net cash used in investing activities	(91,735)	(143,043)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from exercise of options Income tax benefit from share-based	150	57
compensation Payment of liability-classified contingent	503	225
consideration	-	(1,000)
Proceeds from line of credit	27,000	•
Principal payments on line of credit Proceeds from stock offering, net of	(67,000)	
offering costs Distributions paid to noncontrolling	-	71,688
interest Principal payments on long-term debt	(2,306) (843)	(501)

Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities	 (42,496)	 39,669
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(11,059)	32
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	 41,094	 20,265
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 30,035	\$ 20,297
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: Cash paid for interest Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 7,771 19,058	6,508 89
Noncash investing and financing activities: Adjustment of the noncontrolling interest measurement amount Common stock issued for acquisition Net unrealized change in fair value of	\$ 3,175	\$ 4,950
derivative instrument	_	164

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PER SHARE DATA Net income per common share - diluted \$ 1.48 \$ 1.08 37% \$ 4.31 \$ 3.15 37% Weighted average number of shares outstanding - diluted 17,228 17,093 1% 17,218 16,792 3% Closing market price \$ 62.22 \$ 64.66 - 4% \$ 62.22 \$ 64.66 - 4%
RATIOS AND OTHER DATA
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
For the Quarter Ended
PERIOD-END BALANCES Cash and cash equivalents \$ 30,035 \$ 25,481 \$ 35,443 \$ 41,094 \$ 20,297 Finance receivables, net 919,478 879,515 866,992 831,330 807,239 Goodwill and intangible assets, net 76,426 77,643 78,893 80,144 81,610 Total assets 1,064,104 1,021,617 1,020,099 995,908 947,737 Line of credit 260,000 250,000 290,000 300,000 288,500 Total liabilities 478,915 463,153 489,136 490,943 464,781 Total equity 568,305 542,396 515,710 490,516 468,425
FINANCE RECEIVABLE COLLECTIONS Cash collections \$ 182,168 \$ 176,281 \$ 166,717 \$ 144,363 \$ 137,377 Principal amortization without allowance 78,552 73,695 66,703 54,139 50,831 Principal amortization with allowance 79,293 75,978 70,743 59,580 57,351 Principal amortization w/ allowance as % of cash collections: Including fully amortized pools 43.5% 43.1% 42.4% 41.3% 41.7% Excluding fully amortized pools 45.7% 45.7% 45.3% 44.3% 44.7% Estimated remaining collections - core \$1,154,406 \$1,072,777 \$1,040,140 \$ 974,108 \$ 934,942 Estimated remaining collections - bankruptcy 770,886 743,228 753,130 749,410 734,632 Estimated remaining collections - total 1,925,292 1,816,005 1,793,270 1,723,518 1,669,574
ALLOWANCE FOR FINANCE RECEIVABLES
PURCHASES OF FINANCE RECEIVABLES
PER SHARE DATA Net income per common share - diluted \$ 1.48 \$ 1.48 \$ 1.34 \$ 1.20 \$ 1.08 Weighted average number of shares outstanding - diluted 17,228 17,225 17,199 17,165 17,093 Closing market price \$ 62.22 \$ 84.79 \$ 85.13 \$ 75.20 \$ 64.66
RATIOS AND OTHER DATA

Net Allowance Charges, Entire Portfolio

(\$ in thousands)

Allowance Period		1996-2003		Purcha: 2004	Period 2005		2006	
2005	\$	200	\$	_	\$	-	\$	_
2006		275		_		825		_
2007		235		470		1,885		340
2008		(110)		1,290		3,040		7,170
2009		(600)		(375)		4,190		4,860
Q1 10		_		_		2,795		1,175
Q2 10		_		(80)		1,600		2,100
Q3 10		_		(80)		1,650		2,050
Q4 10		-		(10)		832		1,720
Q1 11		_		(15)		455		(100)
Q2 11		-		-		(217)		-
Q3 11		_		_		641		100
Total	\$	_	\$	1,200	\$	17,696	\$	19,415
	==	======	==	======	==	======	==	======
Portfolio Purchases, net	\$	203,026	\$	59,177	\$	143,169	\$	107,704

Net Allowance Charges, Entire Portfolio

(\$ in thousands)

Allowance Period	Pu 2007	od 2009-2011	Total		
Allowance relied					
2005	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	
2006	_	-	-	1,100	
2007	_	-	-	2,930	
2008	7,380	620	-	19,390	
2009	3,435	16,125	-	27,635	
Q1 10	2,900	-	-	6,870	
Q2 10	700	2,000	-	6,320	
Q3 10	2,750	150	-	6,520	
Q4 10	1,150	1,750	-	5,442	
Q1 11	400	3,300	-	4,040	
Q2 11	_	2,500	-	2,283	
Q3 11	(500)	500	-	741	
Total	\$ 18,215	\$ 26,945	\$ -	\$ 83,471	
	=======	========	-=======	=======	
Portfolio Purchases, net	\$ 258,401	\$ 275,162	\$ 957,578	\$2,004,217	

 $\label{eq:net_net_problem} \mbox{Net Allowance Charges, Purchased Bankruptcy Portfolio} \ (\mbox{$\ $in $ thousands})$

Allowance Period	1996-20	03	2004	200)5		2006
2007	\$	 - \$	470	\$	160	\$	150
2008		-	770		375		1,210
2009		-	45		265		120
Q1 10		-	_		95		50
Q2 10		-	(30)		25		
Q3 10		-	(30)		-		(100)
Q4 10		-	(10)		(18)		(30)
Q1 11		-	(15)		(95)		(100)
Q2 11		-	_		(17)		
Q3 11		-	-		(59)		(100)
Total	\$	- \$	1,200	\$	731	\$	1,200
	======	== ==	======	=====	:====	===	======
Portfolio Purchases, net	\$	- \$ 	7,468	\$ 29	,301	\$	17,645

Net Allowance Charges, Purchased Bankruptcy Portfolio (\$ in thousands)

Purchase Period Allowance Period 2007 2008 2009-2011 Total - \$ 780 2007 \$ - \$ - \$ 2008 2,355 110 2009 540 Q1 10 1,200 1,345 (5) Q2 10 _ 470 Q3 10 600 950 892 Q4 10 Q1 11 1,150 1,300 2,240 Q2 11 500 483 (159) Q3 11 - \$ Total 1,800 \$ 4,010 \$ 8,941 ------ ------ -------\$ 78,547 \$ 108,609 \$ 511,762 \$ 753,332 Portfolio Purchases, net

Net Allowance Charges, Core Portfolio

(\$ in thousands)

	Purchase Period								
Allowance Period		1996-2003		2004	200	2005		2006	
2005	\$	200	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	
2006		275		_		825		_	
2007		235		-	1	,725		190	
2008		(110)		520	2	2,665		5,960	
2009		(600)		(420)	3	3,925		4,740	
Q1 10		_		_	2	2,700		1,125	
Q2 10		-		(50)	1	,575		2,100	
Q3 10		_		(50)	1	,650		2,150	
Q4 10		-		-		850		1,750	
Q1 11		_		_		550		_	
Q2 11		-		-		(200)		-	
Q3 11		_		_		700		200	
Total	\$	-	\$	_	\$ 16	,965	\$	18,215	

Portfolio Purchases, net \$ 203,026 \$ 51,709 \$ 113,868 \$ 90,059

Net Allowance Charges, Core Portfolio

(\$ in thousands)

	Purchase Period							
Allowance Period		2007	2008		2009-2011		Total	
2005	\$		\$		\$		\$	200
2006		_		_		-		1,100
2007		_		_		-		2,150
2008		7,380		620		-		17,035
2009		3,325		16,125		-		27,095
Q1 10		1,700		_		-		5,525
Q2 10		700		2,000		-		6,325
Q3 10		2,150		150		-		6,050
Q4 10		200		1,750		-		4,550
Q1 11		(750)		2,000		_		1,800
Q2 11		-		2,000		-		1,800
Q3 11		(500)		500		-		900
Total	 \$	14,205	\$	25,145	\$		\$	74,530
	==	======	==	======	==	======	==	======
Portfolio Purchases, net	\$	179,854	\$	166,553	\$	445,816	\$1 	,250,885

Purchase Price Multiples at September 30, 2011, Entire Portfolio (\$ in thousands)

Purchase Period	 Purchase Price	Total Estimated Collections	Receivables Balance at	Cash	Estimated	Total Estimat ed Collect ions to Purchas e Price
1996	\$ 3,080	\$ 10,244	\$ -	\$ 10,133	\$ 111	333%
1997	7,685	25,542	_	25,276	266	332%
1998	11,089	37,372	-	36,870	502	337%
1999	18,898	69,217	-	67,958	1,259	366%
2000	25,020	115,723	_	112,831	2,892	463%
2001	33,481	173,562	_	169,712	3,850	518%
2002	42,325	194,567	_	189,071	5,496	460%
2003	61,448	258,690	-	250,428	8,262	421%
2004	59,177	193,917	_	185,401	8,516	328%
2005	143,169	309,864	13,377	284,295	25,569	216%
2006	107,704	218,184	19,983	183,555	34,629	203%
2007	258,401	507,831	70,611	388,573	119,258	197%
2008	275,162	531,849	114,070	339,458	192,391	193%
2009	281,442	744,873	146,078	377,599	367,274	265%
2010	358,349	793,259	252,628	251,198	542,061	221%
YTD 2011	 317,787	654,370	302,731	41,414	612,956	206%
Total	\$ 2,004,217	\$ 4,839,064	\$ 919,478	\$ 2,913,772	\$ 1,925,292	241%

Purchase Price Multiples at September 30, 2011, Purchased Bankruptcy Portfolio

(\$ in thousands)

Purchase Period	Purchase Price	Total Estimated Collections	Recei Bala Sept	vables nce at ember	Cash	Estimated	Purchas
1996-	 						
2003	\$ _	\$ -	\$	_	\$ -	- \$ -	0%
2004	7,468	14,383		-	14,273	110	193%
2005	29,301	43,326		79	43,146	180	148%
2006	17,645	31,189		141	30,279	910	177%
2007	78,547	111,082		15,837	92,058	19,024	141%
2008	108,609	184,083		49,641	115,115	68,968	169%
2009	156,061	367,213		95,034	174,834	192,379	235%
2010	209,284	386,164	1	60,891	115,781	270,383	185%
YTD 2011	 146,417	225,631	1	44,687	6,699	218,932	154%
Total	\$ 753,332	\$ 1,363,071	\$ 4	 66,310 	\$ 592,185	5 \$ 770,886	181%

Purchase Price Multiples at September 30, 2011, Core Portfolio (\$ in thousands)

Total Estimat Net Finance Actual Cash ed Receivables Collections Collect Total Balance at Including Estimated ions to Purchase Purchase Estimated September Cash Remaining Purchas Period Price Collections 30, 2011 Sales Collections e Price ______ 3,080 \$ 10,244 \$ - \$ 10,133 \$ 1996 \$ 111 - \$ 10,133 \$ 111 333% - 25,276 266 332% - 36,870 502 337% - 67,958 1,259 366% - 112,831 2,892 463% - 169,712 3,850 518% - 189,071 5,496 460% - 250,428 8,262 421% - 171,128 8,406 347% 13,298 241,149 25,389 234% 19,842 153,276 33,719 200% 1997 7,685 25,542 11,089 37,372
18,898 69,217
25,020 115,723
33,481 173,562
42,325 194,567
61,448 258,690
51,709 179,534
113,868 266,538 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 113,868 266,538 90,059 186,995 179,854 396,749 166,553 347,766 125,381 377,660 2005
 186,995
 19,842
 153,276
 33,719
 208%

 396,749
 54,774
 296,515
 100,234
 221%

 347,766
 64,429
 224,343
 123,423
 209%

 377,660
 51,044
 202,765
 174,895
 301%
 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 149,065 407,095 91,737 135,417 271,678 273% 158,044 171,370 428,739 34,715 394,024 250% YTD 2011 ______ Total \$ 1,250,885 \$ 3,475,993 \$ 453,168 \$ 2,321,587 \$ 1,154,406 278%

SOURCE: Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc.