

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL WESTERN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Western Life Announces Appointment of John Ptaszynski as Domestic Life Chief Underwriter

Austin, Texas, June 5, 2008 – National Western Life Insurance Company (Nasdaq: NWLIA) announced today the appointment of John Ptaszynski, AALU, FLMI, as its new Chief Underwriter of the company's Domestic Life Insurance Underwriting Division. Mr. Ptaszynski joined the company on May 19, 2008.

“We're pleased to have John join us at National Western Life,” said President, Ross R. Moody. “His knowledge and experience in large case and impaired risk underwriting will have immediate impact on our growing domestic life department.”

Mr. Ptaszynski will be responsible for all of National Western Life's domestic life insurance underwriting operations, including life underwriting policies and procedures and individual risk assessment and selection. In addition, he will be accountable for the company's broader mortality strategy.

Prior to joining National Western Life, Mr. Ptaszynski spent 23 years as Chief Underwriter for First Penn Pacific Life Insurance Company. More recently he was Chief Underwriter for Linked Benefit Products at Genworth Financial. In addition, he has earned Fellow designation at the Life Management Institute and is an associate of The Academy of Life Underwriting. Mr. Ptaszynski is a graduate of Bradley University with a B.S. degree in mathematics.

“I am very happy to have an underwriter of John's caliber join our team,” said Domestic Chief Marketing Officer, Christopher Johnson. “Our field agents and distribution partners will see our underwriting department transcend to the next level under his leadership. We are very excited about the future of our domestic life sales.”

Founded in 1956, National Western Life is a stock life insurance company offering a broad portfolio of individual universal life, whole life and term insurance plans, annuity products, and investment contracts meeting the financial needs of its customers in 49 states as well as residents of various countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. The Company has approximately 290 employees and 10,900 contracted independent agents, brokers and consultants, and at March 31, 2008, maintained total assets of nearly \$6.9 billion, stockholders' equity in excess of \$1.0 billion, and life insurance in force of approximately \$17.9 billion.