



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Big Lots, Inc. Names New Senior Vice President of Marketing**

COLUMBUS, OH (October 24, 2005) — Big Lots (NYSE: BLI), America's largest broadline closeout retailer, today announced the appointment of Robert C. Claxton as Senior Vice President of Marketing. Mr. Claxton will report to CEO Steve Fishman and will start his position on November 14.

Claxton will oversee all areas of marketing, advertising, brand development, and merchandise presentation and will be responsible for furthering the company's national brand recognition. "As we continue to develop and refine our marketing strategy, we are attracting the best and brightest talent in the advertising industry," said Steve Fishman, chairman and CEO. "Rob is a proven professional who brings a wealth of branded business expertise to Big Lots. His energy, experience, and leadership will add tremendous value to our efforts, and we are delighted to have him as a member of our senior management team."

Claxton joins Big Lots from Initiative Media, a leading global advertising and communications agency based in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was General Manager and Executive Vice President. At Initiative, he was responsible for the management and administration of a multimillion-dollar retail client base that included The Home Depot, Macy's Central, Arby's National, Famous Footwear, and Golfsmith. Over the years, he's also held senior marketing positions with Montgomery Ward, Silo Electronics, and U.S. Electronics Group, a company that he co-founded in 1977 which went public in 1984.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Colorado State University.

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**Big Lots, Inc.** (NYSE: BLI) is a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. As the nation's largest broadline closeout retailer, Big Lots operates more than 1,500 retail stores in 47 states. Five regional closeout distribution centers ranging in size from 1 million to 3 million square feet and two furniture distribution centers provide the company's stores with brand-name products from more than 3,000 manufacturers. Big Lots offers merchandise on average at 20 to 40 percent below most discount retailers and up to 70 percent below conventional retailers. Founded in 1967, the company employs more than 46,000 associates across the U.S. Big Lots offers consumers a unique shopping experience and wide range of bargain-priced merchandise, including brand-name closeouts, one-of-a-kind deals, seasonal products, consumables, furniture, housewares, toys, and gifts. For more information, visit [www.biglots.com](http://www.biglots.com).