

CASTLEOAK SECURITIES, L.P. HIRES SENIOR CAPITAL MARKETS, SALES AND TRADING PROFESSIONALS

New York, NY – May 25, 2006 – CastleOak Securities, L.P., currently being established as a minority-owned investment bank based in New York, announced today that several senior capital markets, sales and trading professionals have joined the Firm.

In the New York office, Jay Kantor has joined as Managing Director, Corporate Trader and Jerome Menifee has joined as Managing Director, Capital Markets. Patrick DeCatalogne has joined the Firm's Atlanta office as Managing Director, Head of Fixed Income Sales and Trading, and Gennell Jefferson has joined the Firm as Managing Director, Capital Markets, and will be opening the Firm's Chicago office.

These individuals each have approximately 20 years experience in the debt and equity capital markets. Mr. Kantor is responsible for the trading and execution aspects of all fixed income products, while Mr. Menifee and Ms. Jefferson bring a significant number of corporate relationships to expand the Firm's overall client coverage. Mr. DeCatalogne is responsible for building out CastleOak's fixed income sales platform.

David Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of CastleOak, commented, "We are pleased to announce that these talented and well regarded professionals have joined our team, and we are confident they will make a valuable contribution to our platform and assist us in rapidly serving our clients needs across all core business areas."

Prior to joining CastleOak, Mr. Kantor was with RBC Dain Rauscher, Bank One and Drexel Burnham Lambert trading corporate securities. Mr. Menifee was previously with JP Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, The Boston Company and Tocqueville Asset Management, where he marketed institutional products and services. Mr. DeCatalogne was Managing Director at Blaylock & Company and held positions at JP Morgan, Société Générale and Interstate Johnson Lane. Ms. Jefferson was a commercial banker at Bank of New York and held investment banking positions at Banc of America Securities, Lehman Brothers and a Chicago-based minority-owned investment bank.

CastleOak has attracted strategic partner Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P., which will enable it to provide the broadest array of value-added services and solutions to its institutional client base.

The Firm continues to seek experienced professionals to add to its team.

About CastleOak Securities, L.P.

CastleOak Securities, L.P. currently engages in sales and trading and financial advisory services and has filed an application with the NASD seeking approval to underwrite debt and equity securities. For more information, please visit www.castleoaklp.com.

About Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P.

Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P. is a leading financial services provider to the institutional equity and fixed income markets, with products and services including sales and trading, investment banking, asset management, market data, and market commentary. For nearly 60 years, Cantor Fitzgerald, a proven and resilient

leader, has been committed to delivering a unique brand of unparalleled trading and distribution services, product expertise, innovative technology and customer service to its clients around the world. This commitment also extends to numerous philanthropic endeavors, including the firm's pledge to donate for five years 25% of the profits it would otherwise distribute to its partners to benefit the families of the employees lost on September 11, 2001. For more information, please visit www.cantor.com.