

**CASTLEOAK SECURITIES RECOGNIZED AS A TOP MINORITY-OWNED INVESTMENT BANK FOR
THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

New York, NY – (July 2, 2012) - CastleOak Securities, L.P., a leading New York-based investment banking firm, announced today that Black Enterprise magazine has ranked the firm among the top minority-owned investment banks, and top minority-owned businesses in the U.S., in its June 2012 edition. This is the third consecutive year that Black Enterprise magazine has recognized CastleOak Securities as being among the top African-American owned firms in the financial services industry.

David R. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer at CastleOak Securities said, “We are honored to be recognized as one of the country’s leading minority owned investment banks by a respected publication such as Black Enterprise. Our goal remains focused on continued expansion in the U.S., increasing transaction volume, and providing our clients with excellent advice and unparalleled execution of services. This recognition is a testament to the commitment of our employees who have worked with focused consistency to deepen our capabilities in financial advisory, fixed income sales and trading and capital markets to meet our clients’ needs.”

Black Enterprise magazine is a premier business news and investment resource focusing on African-American owned businesses. Each year, Black Enterprise ranks the nation’s largest African-American owned businesses, and the June 2012 issue marks the 40th edition of its top 100 report.

About CastleOak Securities

CastleOak is a New York based boutique investment bank with regional offices throughout the U.S. It is managed by a team of seasoned bankers with an average of over 20 years of

experience. CastleOak provides sales and trading, capital markets, and financial advisory services. The company offers expertise in primary and secondary market transactions, and is structured to effectively advise its clients on mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, valuations and general strategic assessments.

CastleOak is in a strategic partnership with Cantor Fitzgerald, L.P., a leading global financial services provider to the institutional equity and fixed income capital markets.

Contact

Gauri Mundkur

(212) 610-2314

gmundkur@castleoaklp.com