

CASTLEOAK SECURITIES ADDS SEASONED FIXED INCOME PROFESSIONAL

-- Carlos A. Sanchez Joins Leading Minority-Owned Investment Bank --

New York, – April 2, 2007 – CastleOak Securities, L.P., a minority-owned investment bank based in New York, has announced the expansion of its capital markets team with the addition of Carlos A. Sanchez, Managing Director, to its fixed income syndicate group. Mr. Sanchez joins CastleOak with over 20 years experience in syndicated debt transactions.

David R. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of CastleOak, said, “As we continue to add senior professionals to our debt syndicate team, we’re highly confident that Carlos’ deep experience across a range of asset classes and industries will be a tremendous addition to our bench strength. His focus on meeting clients’ corporate fixed income needs and emphasis on building strong client relationships are an excellent fit with CastleOak’s culture and commitment to excellence in client service.”

Mr. Jones noted that CastleOak has had a strong start in 2007 as co-manager on offerings totaling \$17 billion for clients including Exelon Corp., Southern Company, Wachovia Corp., Citigroup, Inc., Bank of America, AT&T Corporation, GE Capital Corporation, Wells Fargo & Company, and Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc.

Mr. Jones added, “CastleOak’s strong capital position, marquee client base, and strategic partnership with Cantor Fitzgerald have enabled us to win 26 mandates in transactions raising over \$32 billion in just nine months since obtaining regulatory underwriting approval in July 2006. As a seasoned capital markets professional, Carlos will help maximize our ability to fulfill our clients’ strategic and financial needs.”

Most recently, Mr. Sanchez served as a Managing Director and Syndicate Manager with the minority-owned broker/dealer, Utendahl Capital Partners, L.P. Earlier, he was an Assistant Vice President in the Investment Grade Syndicate group of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. Mr. Sanchez has been honored with an achievement award from Saludos Hispanos magazine and has been profiled in Bloomberg magazine.

About CastleOak Securities, L.P.

CastleOak Securities, L.P. is a minority-owned investment bank offering an extensive suite of financial services including fixed income sales and trading, equity sales and trading, and financial advisory services. The firm offers clients expertise in primary and secondary market transactions, advice on mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, valuations and general strategic assessments. Based in New York, with regional offices in Chicago and Atlanta, CastleOak is managed by a team of seasoned investment bankers, each with an average of 15 years experience who provide innovative, client-driven solutions that leverage their extensive professional experience, strong

institutional relationships and keen market insight. For more information, please visit www.castleoaklp.com

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