



CASTLEOAK SECURITIES ANNOUNCES NEWEST MEMBER OF ITS CAPITAL MARKETS TEAM

-- Leading Minority-Owned Investment Bank Raised \$113 Billion in 2008 --

New York, NY – (January 14, 2009) – CastleOak Securities, L.P., a leading minority-owned investment bank, announced today the expansion of its capital markets team with the addition of Robert L. Bacon, Director, Investment Banking/Capital Markets.

David R. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of CastleOak, said, “As we continue to grow our business, we are confident that Robert’s background in capital raising across multiple asset classes further leverages our platform. His focus on client relationships is perfectly suited for CastleOak’s culture and commitment to excellent client service.”

Mr. Jones noted that CastleOak had a strong year in 2008 as co-manager on offerings totaling \$113 billion for a broad range of clients in a variety of industries ranging from financial services to electric utilities.

Mr. Jones added, “CastleOak’s success in 2008, despite a severe downturn in the economy, underscores the effectiveness of our business model which combines a strong capital position with the ability to leverage the infrastructure of our strategic partner.”

Mr. Bacon previously was a Director in the Global Capital Markets group at UBS Investment Bank where he assisted Treasury/Funding teams with strategic funding initiatives, derivative risk management, structured products and debt repurchases. He has extensive experience advising North American financial institutions in raising capital and managing liquidity in the global debt and equity capital markets. Mr. Bacon earned a bachelor’s degree from Howard University.

About CastleOak Securities, L.P.

CastleOak Securities, L.P. is a leading minority-owned investment bank with an extensive suite of financial services including equity sales and trading, fixed income 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

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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