

CASTLEOAK SECURITIES CONTINUES AGGRESSIVE GROWTH AND HIRING

--FIXED INCOME DIVISION GROWS BY 25% YEAR OVER YEAR IN U.S.--

New York, NY – (May 9, 2011) - CastleOak Securities, L.P., a leading New York-based boutique investment firm, has increased its headcount by nearly 25% year-over-year driven primarily by its Fixed Income Division. Since the beginning of the year, the firm has added 13 institutional sales, trading, and research professionals. In addition, CastleOak plans to further strengthen its U.S. presence by strategically adding employees across its practice groups over the next 12-18 months.

As part of its growth, the company recently launched an institutional money fund portal called MoneyFundAccess. The portal leverages State Street's Fund Connect platform which enables investors to invest in a wide range of institutional money market funds through a single, secure interface allowing direct access to a variety of fund information. In addition, CastleOak hired a new municipal finance and institutional sales team formally of SBK-Brooks Investments.

"Fueled by the growth within our Fixed Income Division, including the Muni and TAMM Groups, CastleOak's business has fared extremely well, despite the challenges most Wall Street firms currently face today," said David R. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of CastleOak Securities. "We continue to solidify our position as one of the leading boutique investment banking firms in the country by strategically positioning ourselves to take advantage of the market environment. Our growing range of expertise across the sales and trading, capital markets and financial advisory groups underscores the firm's commitment to our clients and the continued expansion of our robust financial platform."

In addition to CastleOak's Fixed Income Division, the firm has made strategic hires across the following divisions:

- Capital Markets/IBD
- Equity Group
- MoneyFundAccess

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.

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