

CASTLEOAK SECURITIES RECOGNIZED AS TOP MINORITY OWNED INVESTMENT BANK

New York, NY – (July 21, 2011) - CastleOak Securities, L.P., a leading New York-based minority owned investment firm, announced today that Black Enterprise has ranked the firm as being among the top minority owned businesses in the US, and among the top minority owned investment banks, in its June 2011 edition. Black Enterprise is the premier business news and investment resource focusing on African American owned businesses.

Each year, Black Enterprise ranks the nation's largest minority owned businesses, and June 2011 marks the 39th edition of its top 100 report. This is the second year that CastleOak has been featured amongst the top firms within the Taxable Securities section of the Financial Services category.

David R. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer at CastleOak Securities said, "We are delighted to be recognized as one of the top minority owned investment banks by a highly regarded publication like Black Enterprise. Our hard work and unwavering commitment to clients is paramount, and we continue to strive to be the best in every aspect of the business across our sales and trading, capital markets and financial advisory groups."

This acknowledgement comes on the heels of CastleOak's recent announcement of plans to further strengthen its U.S. presence by strategically adding employees across its practice during the next 12-18 months.

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



CastleOak Securities

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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