

CastleOak Securities Announces Appointment of Milton M. Irvin as Advisory Board Chair

New York, NY January 17, 2012 - CastleOak Securities today announced the appointment of Milton M. Irvin as Chairman of its Board of Advisors. A former Managing Director, and Americas Head of Diversity and Inclusion for UBS, Mr. Irvin rounds out CastleOak's Board of Advisors. Mr. Irvin brings over 30 years of experience in the financial services industry, which will enable him to provide strategic insight and leadership to CastleOak as it continues to build upon its long-term strategy and to execute its plans for growth as a leading boutique investment firm.

CastleOak's Advisory Board counsels its management team on a range of marketplace issues, including business development and growth, strategic business opportunities, and economic and social trends. "We are delighted to welcome Milton as Chair of the Advisory Board," said David R. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of CastleOak Securities, L.P. "He is an enormously talented executive with a truly global perspective and, as the first African-American Managing Director at Salomon Brothers, has a proven track record of leadership and innovation in the financial industry. We are confident he has the credentials and experience to help drive CastleOak forward, and to assist in advising on strategic and client initiatives as we continue to develop as a preeminent leader within the boutique investment community."

"I am honored to assume this leadership role, and to work with the esteemed group of leaders on CastleOak's Advisory Board," said Mr. Irvin. "We have a tremendous opportunity to further strengthen CastleOak's presence within the investment banking community and I look forward to working with David and his team whom I've known for many years, and the Board toward that mission."

Before joining UBS, Mr. Irvin served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Blaylock & Partners, a minority investment banking firm, and Imbot.com, an Internet start-up. Previously, Mr. Irvin spent nearly twenty years at Salomon Brothers, holding positions in Fixed Income Sales and Sales Management.

Mr. Irvin serves on the Wharton Graduate Executive Board. In 1994, President Clinton appointed him to the Advisory Committee of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and served as its Chair from 1995 to 1998. A founding member of the Executive Leadership Council, Mr. Irvin serves on its Foundation Board.

In addition to Mr. Irvin, the CastleOak Advisory Board consists of Robert J. Brown, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of B&C Associates, Inc.; Dr. William R. Harvey, President of Hampton University and CEO of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Houghton, Michigan; and James Tammaro, Co-Founder of Tandem.

About CastleOak Securities

CastleOak is a New York based boutique investment bank with regional offices in Chicago, Atlanta, Cleveland, and Portland. It is managed by a team of seasoned professionals with an average of over 20 years of financial services industry experience. CastleOak provides sales and trading, capital markets, and financial advisory services. The company recently launched Money Fund Access, a leading edge institutional money fund portal which leverages State Street's FundConnectSM platform. CastleOak 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.

For more information please visit www.castleoaklp.com.

Contact:

Sandra Lee

CastleOak Securities

slee@castleoaklp.com

212-610-2297