



**HIGHTOWER ADVISORS LAUNCHES FIRST ADVISOR-OWNED,
NATIONAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY FIRM**

Chicago, IL, December 10, 2008 – Putting investors first is the driving focus of HighTower Advisors, a new investment advisory firm that is reinventing the model of today’s financial advisory business by becoming the first advisor-owned, nationally branded, fiduciary financial services firm dedicated to serving high net worth investors.

In development before the meltdown on Wall Street, HighTower is led by CEO Elliot Weissbluth and is backed by an elite group of industry-leading executives and financial services capital partners. Its capital partners include M.D. Sass - Macquarie Financial Strategies Fund, Franklin Mutual Advisers and Envestnet, among others.

“We’re not trying to convince brokers to leave their firms, but once a high net worth advisor decides to leave, HighTower should be on their short list of options,” said Elliot S. Weissbluth, CEO of HighTower. “HighTower’s mission is to restore confidence with the investors who have lost trust in the traditional model.”

HighTower is headquartered in Chicago, with corporate offices in New York and San Francisco and several advisor locations around the country. Several well regarded advisory teams have already joined HighTower and several are slated to join in early 2009.

Doug Brown, former Vice Chairman of Morgan Stanley and CEO of DLB Capital, a Capital Investor and HighTower Director, said, “The current environment has created unprecedented opportunity for wirehouse brokers looking for alternatives to big brokerage firms. HighTower has established a safe, stable and client driven firm that provides virtually all of the services that a large wirehouse firm has historically provided with none of the conflicts.”

Mr. Weissbluth added “Everything old is new again. Coming at a time of growing distrust of Wall Street, the HighTower model provides a new way of doing business. Our advisors are owners of our firm. This makes them invested in their clients’ success. Simply put, it’s an unobstructed view.”

About HighTower

HighTower is the first national, advisor-owned, financial services company focused on the needs of wealthy families. Since HighTower advisors have a fiduciary duty to their clients, they offer unbiased, transparent, fee-based advice. HighTower advisors are experienced investment professionals with large, established practices serving high net worth clients.

See www.hightoweradvisors.com

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