



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGHTOWER NAMED #13 ON THE 2012 INC. 500 | 5000 LIST

CHICAGO, IL - August 21, 2012 - HighTower, the nation's first advisor-owned financial services firm serving wealthy families and institutional clients, has been named #13 on the prestigious Inc. 500 | 5000 list of the fastest growing private companies in America in 2012. This achievement places HighTower among an elite group of companies such as Microsoft, Vizio, Intuit, Oracle and Zappos, all of whom have earned places on the list in the more than 30 years that Inc. has been compiling this ranking.

"We launched HighTower with a vision of what the advisory profession could be—intensely focused on the clients' best interests and on bridging the trust gap between advisors and their clients which once permeated the industry," said Elliot Weissbluth, Chief Executive Officer of HighTower. "HighTower's inclusion on Inc's list confirms the transformational impact of our business model, and validates the advisors from so many Wall Street firms that have left, and continue to leave, what was once the status quo in order to join HighTower. We are committed to actionable innovation in an industry that was in desperate need of a better model that benefited both advisors and their investor clients."

Out of the nearly 7 million privately-owned companies based in the U.S. only 500 are recognized in this group each year. To qualify, companies must have at least three years of revenue generation, making 2012 the first year HighTower was eligible for inclusion. This highly-coveted recognition comes on the heels of three years of strategic national growth for HighTower. In addition to the firm's Chicago headquarters, HighTower has opened offices in 20 cities across the country with over 30 teams of advisors.

Among the firm's recent accomplishments is creating the financial industry's first comprehensive technology solution providing direct access to multiple custodians and clearing firms, best-in-class tools and a wide range of investment products. The HighTower Open Source Technology (HOST) platform delivers access to industry-leading investment products, tools, research and service providers while aligning with HighTower's open architecture business model.



The Inc. 5000 lists the 5000 fastest-growing private companies in the U.S. The Inc. 500 is the top 500 companies of the Inc. 5000, ranked according to percentage revenue growth from 2008 through 2011.

For media inquiries, please contact Nicole Abbott at 973-850-7315 or nabbott@jcprinc.com.

About HighTower

HighTower is a national, advisor-owned financial services company serving high-net-worth and institutional clients. HighTower advisors are experienced investment professionals with large and established practices. As a dually-registered, multi-custodial firm, HighTower provides sophisticated investment solutions as well as an independent and unobstructed view of the markets. The company is headquartered in Chicago and maintains corporate centers in New York and San Francisco and offices across the country. See www.hightoweradvisors.com.

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