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**HIGHTOWER EXPANDS ADVISORY TALENT ON WEST COAST**

**CHICAGO, IL – October 27, 2010** – HighTower, the first open-source, advisor-owned financial services company, announced that it has expanded the firm’s advisory talent on the West Coast with two new advisor teams in Menlo Park, Calif.

“The trend toward independent advice continues to reshape the financial services landscape, and HighTower’s open source model directly reflects this momentum,” said Drew Kornreich, HighTower’s President. “We expect to continue welcoming experienced advisory talent, as more financial professionals seek greater autonomy and flexibility in serving their high net worth clients.”

Thomas McGuirk, a Managing Director at HighTower, previously co-founded Martin Thomas Wealth Management in 2008. Prior to that, he was Vice President in wealth management at Smith Barney, where he was named “One of America’s Top Planners” by the Consumers’ Research Council. He was also profiled in *The Winner’s Circle V: Wealth Management Insights from America’s Best Financial Advisory Teams*. Mr. McGuirk started his career at Sanford C. Bernstein Investment Research and Management. He is a six-time National Champion and two-time Olympian, having represented Ireland in the 400 meter hurdles at the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Mr. McGuirk and his team are the second advisor team this year to join HighTower after already forming their own firm as a Registered Investment Adviser.

Mike Deggelman also joins HighTower as a Managing Director and has been in the financial services industry for more than 30 years. Previously, he was an advisor at UBS in Menlo Park and E.F. Hutton & Co., a predecessor to Smith Barney. His primary area of focus is retirement planning. Chris Parker, too, will be a Managing Director at HighTower and was an advisor with UBS in Menlo Park for more than nine years.

“Serving the best interest of clients in today’s complex world requires independence, as well as the national scope, secure custody and access to sophisticated solutions that high net worth investors seek,” said Elliot Weissbluth, HighTower’s CEO. “As HighTower expands, we are structured to help clients and advisors navigate the markets with extensive choice in the investment products and services needed to reach their objectives.”

For media inquiries, please contact Jennifer Connelly at 973-732-3521 or jenn@jcprinc.com.

**About HighTower**

HighTower is the first open-source, advisor-owned financial services company. HighTower advisors are experienced investment professionals with large, established practices serving high net worth and institutional clients. 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 around the country. See [www.hightoweradvisors.com](http://www.hightoweradvisors.com).

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