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Melinda Brodbeck
JCPR
973-850-7348
mbrodbeck@jcprinc.com

HIGHTOWER STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO INVESTOR EDUCATION WITH UHNW FAMILY CONFERENCE

CHICAGO, IL — April 9, 2013 — HighTower, the nation's first advisor-owned financial services firm serving wealthy families and institutional clients, will host its annual Ultra-High-Net-Worth (UHNW) Family Wealth Conference on April 11 in Washington, DC. The event — being held at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs — is designed to provide UHNW individuals and their families with unique perspectives on financial and family governance, with targeted topics on wealth preservation and growth.

"HighTower's unique business model helps advisors provide unobstructed investor guidance at a time when transparency and objectivity are severely lacking in the financial services industry," said Elliot Weissbluth, Chief Executive Officer of HighTower. "Giving our clients a forum to learn about the impact that market and life changes have on their financial goals is just one way we demonstrate our fiduciary responsibility."

The conference brings together leading industry experts to discuss some of the most pressing issues affecting UHNW investors from the perspectives of both wealth management and family dynamics. HighTower's Reston, VA-based Pagnato-Karp Group, which specializes in meeting the needs of the nation's wealthiest individuals and their families, is one of the Family Wealth Conference's organizers.

"HighTower's commitment to investors is to give them access to sophisticated investment strategies, along with exceptional client service, support and ongoing education — particularly as the markets evolve," said Paul A. Pagnato, Managing Director and Partner at HighTower's Pagnato-Karp Group, who was named one of the "Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors in the United States" by *Barron's* magazine. "This type of event allows us to deliver personalized and informed perspectives on family guidance and security, while highlighting the full spectrum of expertise and services that are synonymous with the HighTower brand."

Topics slated for discussion at the Family Wealth Conference include investments and portfolio construction, tax and estate planning, personal security and safety, and macroeconomics, as well as the multi-generational view of family capital.

For media inquiries, please contact Melinda Brodbeck at 973-850-7348 or mbrodbeck@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.