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HIGHTOWER ACCELERATES WEST COAST EXPANSION WITH NEW OFFICE IN SAN DIEGO

CHICAGO, IL - July 2, 2012 - HighTower, the nation's first advisor-owned financial services firm serving wealthy families and institutional clients, announces its sixth new advisor team of 2012, and the 31st team to join the HighTower partnership since inception: The Molnar/Nordlicht Group. David Molnar and Drew Nordlicht, who have a combined 40 years of experience in the financial services industry, will open the firm's new office in San Diego with an expertise within the venture capital sector. With the addition of the Molnar/Nordlicht Group, HighTower's new team assets for the first six months of this year total more than all of last year's combined.

Mr. Molnar and Mr. Nordlicht join the HighTower partnership as Managing Directors and Partners, and collectively manage more than \$330 million for corporate executives, entrepreneurs, venture capital firms and high-net-worth families.

"The Molnar/Nordlicht Group joined HighTower because they understand that it's the best option for their clients," said Mike Papedis, HighTower's Executive Vice President of Business Development. "Our unique platform harnesses the competitive power of Wall Street for our clients' benefit. We simply have more choices and better prices."

"Over the last few years, we've studied the changing landscape of our industry. We came to the conclusion that HighTower is the only firm that is positioned to meet our needs and our clients' needs - both now and in the future," said Mr. Molnar. "We are pleased to join this dynamic partnership."

Mr. Molnar and Mr. Nordlicht most recently served as First Vice Presidents of Investments and Corporate Services Financial Advisors at UBS. Before joining UBS, they worked at Smith Barney. Mr. Molnar holds a degree in Quantitative Economics and Decision Sciences from the University of California-San Diego, and Mr. Nordlicht graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Marketing.

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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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