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FIVE HIGHTOWER TEAMS RANK AMONG FINANCIAL TIMES TOP 300 RIA PRACTICES

CHICAGO, IL – June 26, 2014 – **HighTower** is pleased to announce that five of its advisor teams have been selected for the inaugural *Financial Times* 300 list of the top independent RIA practices. The list, published June 26, aims to help the publication's readership identify highly qualified independent investment advisors.

"HighTower's dedication to independent advisors delivering unbiased financial advice has been the core of our business from the very beginning," said Elliot Weissbluth, HighTower's CEO. "We proudly congratulate the five HighTower teams recognized by the FT 300 for their exemplary contributions to the financial services profession and to their clients."

The five HighTower teams that appear on the Financial Times 300 list are:

- **HighTower Bethesda** – Bethesda, MD
HighTower Bethesda specializes in financial planning and portfolio management for entrepreneurs and high net worth individuals, utilizing a three-step investment process that includes analysis and planning, implementation and execution, and monitoring and ongoing management.
- **HSW Advisors at HighTower** – New York, NY
HSW Advisors at HighTower is a private wealth management boutique providing strategic insight, investment advice and planning and advisory services to high-net-worth and institutional clients, using rigorous analysis and a disciplined investment process to construct well-diversified portfolios.
- **Kelly Wealth Management at HighTower** – Baltimore, MD
Kelly Wealth Management at HighTower seeks to restore the tradition of boutique wealth management in Baltimore. The firm focuses on financial planning and investment services, developing innovative solutions and customized, comprehensive strategies for wealthy individuals, families, foundations, endowments, trusts, and corporate retirement plans.
- **The Lerner Group at HighTower** – Deerfield, IL
The Lerner Group at HighTower provides investment strategies for foundations, endowments, small businesses, and high-net-worth individuals, using a

disciplined approach to determine allocations among growth stocks, high dividend paying common stocks, and corporate and municipal bonds.

- **Morse, Towey & White Group at HighTower** – New York, NY
Morse, Towey & White Group at HighTower focuses on mitigating market volatility while providing satisfactory risk-adjusted returns to its high-net-worth clients. It employs a range of investment vehicles that include managed equity portfolios, bonds, and risk mollifying hedging techniques.

To select the firms for the list, the *Financial Times* solicited applications from more than 2,000 elite independent RIA firms with \$300 million or more in assets. Firms that participated were graded on six factors including total AUM, AUM growth, years the firm has been in existence, industry certifications of staff, SEC compliance record, and online accessibility. To ensure relevance to individual investors, the list only includes RIA practices with no more than 75 percent of AUM in institutional assets.

For media inquiries, please contact Melinda Brodbeck, Jennifer Connelly Public Relations (JCPR), at 973-850-7348 or mbrodbeck@jcprinc.com.

About HighTower

HighTower is an industry-leading financial services firm offering a unique platform that blends objective wealth management advice with innovative technology. Our dedication to transparency in wealth management for investors and comprehensive support for independent advisors sets us apart. See www.hightoweradvisors.com.

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