



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGHTOWER OPENS PHILADELPHIA MARKET WITH ADDITION OF TOP PERFORMING SARIAN GROUP

CHICAGO, IL - February 19, 2013 - HighTower, the nation's first advisor-owned financial services firm serving wealthy families and institutional clients, announces that The Sarian Group, a leading advisory team in the Philadelphia area, is joining the HighTower partnership. The Sarian Group's principals, Gregory C. Sarian and Francis X. Masse II, who have more than 35 years of combined experience in the financial services sector, are joining HighTower as Partners and Managing Directors. This is the ninth new advisor team to join HighTower in the past year, and the 36th team to enter into the HighTower partnership since inception.

The Sarian Group has established itself as one of the top five advisor teams in the Philadelphia area, with a special expertise working with emerging life sciences companies and the entrepreneurs who lead them. Mr. Sarian was named one of the Top 1,000 Advisors by *Barron's* in 2012, 2011 and 2010, and holds multiple professional credentials, including CPWA®, CIMA®, CFP® and ChFC®. Mr. Masse holds the ARPC® designation.

"Respected throughout the financial community for the quality, rigor and integrity of their work, Greg and Frank are joining HighTower for one primary reason: to ensure that their clients receive unobstructed investment advice and benefit from a fiduciary standard," said Mike Papedis, Executive Vice President of Business Development at HighTower. "HighTower's appeal to dynamic advisor teams and our ongoing expansion into new marketplaces reflect the strength of our omnichannel model as the future of the financial services industry."

The Sarian Group manages \$650 million for high-net-worth clients. Mr. Sarian worked for Merrill Lynch from 1992 until 2013; in 1997, he founded The Sarian Group. Mr. Masse joined Merrill Lynch in 1999 and joined The Sarian Group in 2003.

"Our clients are the true beneficiaries of our decision to join HighTower since we now can offer them a fiduciary relationship that provides transparent investor advice without the conflicts of interest that exist elsewhere," said Mr. Sarian. "HighTower's open-source model gives us access to multiple custodians and clearinghouses, allowing us to bring our clients competitive pricing, products and services."



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.

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