



HIGHTOWER KICKS OFF NEW YEAR WITH NEW BILLION-DOLLAR TEAM, EXPANDS FOOTPRINT WITH 9TH LOCATION IN FLORIDA

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CHICAGO — January 17, 2017 — HighTower announces that Fortress Wealth Planning is the latest financial advisory team to leverage the HighTower platform. The Jacksonville-based team includes Founding Partners Michael Skowfoe, Eileen Ortega, Jay Rolfe and Jim Williams. Previously with Wells Fargo Private Bank, Fortress Wealth Planning managed \$1 billion in AUM.

“The fiduciary standard is the foundation of the HighTower culture and business model,” said **Michael Parker, Chief Development Officer, HighTower**. “HighTower offers independent business owners like the team at Fortress Wealth Planning a likeminded community, unparalleled resources and unwavering dedication to the best interests of clients.”

Fortress Wealth Planning provides individuals and families with comprehensive financial planning services including investments, credit, liquidity, insurance, business succession, estate and philanthropic needs. Michael Skowfoe has more than 18 years of financial services industry experience and has appeared on *Barron’s* list of the top advisors in the country by state (2013).

“Utilizing HighTower’s platform enables us to deliver sophisticated planning, advice, portfolio management and an impeccable service experience through our practice,” said **Mr. Skowfoe**.

“Our practice is built on relationships, and we are incredibly proud to be joining a community of elite advisors who share our approach and values,” added **Ms. Ortega**.

In 2016, HighTower welcomed a combination of 14 new teams and tuck-ins representing approximately \$4 billion in AUM, and expanded into 6 new states throughout the U.S. Fortress Wealth Planning is HighTower’s first transition for 2017. With 67 teams and offices in 26 states, HighTower now has representation in over 50% of the states in the country.

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

About HighTower

HighTower is a national firm built by and for elite financial advisors. HighTower advisors commit to the fiduciary standard: a binding promise to put our clients’ interests first. Powered by a proprietary technology and investment platform, HighTower embraces bold change to create a culture of collaboration and growth and to meet the evolving needs of sophisticated investors. For more information, see www.hightoweradvisors.com and www.byadvisorsforadvisors.com.