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HIGHTOWER EXPANDS WITH NEW TEAM IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

CHICAGO, IL – July 11, 2011 – HighTower, a national financial services company serving high net worth and institutional clients, is pleased to announce that it has expanded with a new advisor team, VWG Wealth Management, based in Vienna, VA.

“VWG Wealth Management has more than 45 years of experience and knowledge working closely with high net worth clients to help them meet their financial goals at every stage,” said Mike Papedis, HighTower’s Managing Director of Business Development. “The group will be an excellent addition to HighTower’s prestigious partnership of elite advisors.”

VWG Wealth Management is led by John Verfurth, Richard Weeks and Jeff Grinspoon, who will be serving as Managing Directors and Partners at HighTower. The three partners were included in the Winner's Circle of Top Advisors in the state of Virginia for three consecutive years (2006-2008), which was published in the *Virginia Business* magazine. Most recently, Mr. Verfurth and Mr. Grinspoon were included in the prestigious *Barron's* Top 1000 Financial Advisors in 2010 and 2011.

Mr. Verfurth has 16 years experience in the financial services industry, all of them at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Mr. Weeks has 17 years of financial service experience, beginning his career with Legg Mason in 1994 before joining Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in 2001. Mr. Grinspoon spent 3 years at Legg Mason before also joining Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in 2001.

“With extensive resources, an impeccable reputation and a dedication to providing objective financial advice, VWG Wealth Management is a natural fit for HighTower,” Mr. Papedis said. “We are proud to support top-notch advisor teams and continue to attract leading talent from across the country.”

For media inquiries, please contact Jennifer Connelly at 973-850-7301 or jenn@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 around the country. See www.hightoweradvisors.com.

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