

Collins Stewart Hires Industry Veteran to Build Capital Markets Capability in the U.S. *Henry "Hank" Erbe, III, to Head U.S. Capital Markets Group*

New York, NY – February 16, 2010. Collins Stewart LLC, a leading independent financial advisory group, today announced the Firm's appointment of investment banking industry veteran, Henry "*Hank*" Erbe, as Senior Managing Director, Head of U.S. Capital Markets Group. Erbe will be based in New York.

In his new role at Collins Stewart, Erbe will be responsible for the origination, structuring and execution of capital markets transactions managed by Collins Stewart LLC in North America.

"Collins Stewart has dedicated a considerable part of the past year to building what we believe is the best equity distribution and research platform of its size in the industry," said John Abularrage, Chief Executive of Collins Stewart's North American operations. "The addition of someone as talented and experienced as Hank Erbe allows us to strategically position Collins Stewart to actively pursue transaction opportunities across multiple sectors."

In noting that the United States represents a major growth opportunity, Erbe said, "Collins Stewart is a world-class, independent financial advisory group. Our objective in the U.S. is to deliver the Firm's high-growth platform to clients through participation in capital markets transactions."

Initially, Collins Stewart's U.S. Capital Markets Group will concentrate its efforts on transactions in the financial institutions, healthcare, technology, energy and special situations sectors.

According to Erbe, "The bank sector will be of particular interest given the current cycle of capital raising associated with TARP redemption, balance sheet strengthening and acquisitions. In addition, we anticipate significant new issue activity from the technology, healthcare and energy-related sectors."

During his 25 year career, Erbe has held various senior investment banking and capital markets positions at Bank of America, Lehman Brothers, FTN Financial and Fox-Pitt Kelton. While at Fox-Pitt, Erbe served on the Board of Directors. In addition, Erbe was a founder and Co-Head of U.S. Equity Capital Markets at ABN AMRO Rothschild. He has worked and lived in NY, London and Tokyo and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College in 1984.

Joining Erbe in the move to Collins Stewart's U.S. Capital Markets Group is Dan Mintz. Mintz has equity capital markets experience in previous associate roles at Bank of America and FTN. The firm expects to selectively continue to build the team, as needed.

Collins Stewart's appointment of Erbe and Mintz follows the Firm's recent announcement that it had hired Anthony Dwyer as Managing Director and Chief Equity Strategist in the U.S.

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Collins Stewart plc is a leading independent financial advisory group listed on the London Stock Exchange. Collins Stewart plc employs 700 staff in 10 international locations and is organised around four operational divisions: Advisory, Corporate Broking, Securities and Wealth Management, all served by its unique research tool, Quest™. More information at www.collinsstewart.com

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