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**NewOak Capital Appoints Tom McAvity
Managing Director – Financial Institutions Group**

New York, NY March 9, 2009 – NewOak Capital announces the appointment of Tom McAvity as Managing Director to market the firm's advisory, asset-management and capital markets services to the insurance industry and design customized solutions for insurers, banks and pension and endowment funds.

"Tom's brings a great deal of experience in asset management and risk management in the context of long term asset / liability, corporate finance, regulatory and accounting. In addition, Tom's risk management experience combined with his ability to speak the language of corporate executives is very much needed in today's environment. We are very excited to have him on our senior management team." says Ron D'Vari, CEO of NewOak Capital.

"With nearly 40 years of professional experience including 20 years dedicated to the insurance industry, Tom brings NewOak Capital a unique and valued perspective on the challenges facing the insurance industry. Our goal is to be a solution provider for our clients in order to help them navigate through this most violent storm and Tom will play a role in leading this effort with respect to the insurance space," added James Frischling, President of NewOak Capital

Mr. McAvity brings extensive experience in managing the portfolios of insurance companies in the context of their liabilities. His previous experience includes positions as Executive VP and Chief Investment Officer with Scottish Re Group Ltd.; VP—Asset-Liability Management with Allstate Financial; VP—Quantitative Research with Lincoln Financial Group; VP—Quantitative Research with Alex. Brown & Sons, Inc.; Senior VP and CFO of B.F. Saul REIT; and Associate with McKinsey & Company, Inc. He earned his BA *magna cum laude* from Yale and his MBA with High Distinction from Harvard Business School, where he was elected a Baker Scholar and member of the Century Club. Mr. McAvity has also served as an officer with the U.S. Air Force.

About NewOak Capital (www.newoakcapital.com)

NewOak Capital is an advisory, asset management and capital markets firm organized to serve institutions in response to challenges arising from the global credit markets. It provides analysis, valuation, restructuring, risk transfer, and management solutions and services to financial institutions and other investors to support their portfolio and corporate needs. NewOak Capital employs 16 senior professionals with an average of 17 years of experience in the fixed-income markets in addition to 17 junior and support staff. It specializes in residential and commercial mortgage loans and securities, REITs, asset-backed securities, structured corporate securities (CSOs/CLOs), and distressed financial companies with exposure. NewOak employs a differentiated framework, an integrated "see-through" analytics platform, and a team of experienced professionals with diversified investment and modeling expertise to provide client solutions. With the additions of Tom McAvity and David Shimko, NewOak also provides a deep understanding of the challenges of managing the future performance of financial institutions.

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