

Guggenheim Capital Market Expands Asset Backed Capabilities and Adds Trading Personnel

NEW YORK, July 15, 2008-- Guggenheim Capital Markets, LLC ("GCM"), a registered broker/dealer headquartered in New York City and a subsidiary of Guggenheim Partners, LLC, announced today the recent hiring of Lenny Blasucci, Matthew Perkins, and Nicholas Smith, all of whom will be based in the New York Office. The hires will expand the scope of GCM's asset backed business and deepen the firm's trading abilities.

Blasucci brings extensive experience in the asset-backed arena, specializing in non-residential mortgage backed and other non-mortgage asset backed securities. Prior to joining Guggenheim, he held roles at Clinton Group and Sherman Financial Group, beginning his career at Bear Stearns. Perkins' expertise is in investment banking, specializing in asset backed securities. Previously he was co-head of the asset-backed securities group at Bear Stearns. Smith brings to GCM extensive structuring and trading experience within the mortgage backed arena, especially with the range of residential products. He previously traded on Bear Stearns' ARM desk. "We continue to deepen our bench with a number of capable individuals," said Ron Iervolino, head of GCM's sales and trading desk. "We're delighted to have Lenny, Matt and Nick join our team, as they each bring unique and valuable expertise to GCM that will help us provide clients with top-notch service."

Guggenheim Capital Markets, LLC is a broker/dealer focusing on sales and trading of structured fixed-income products, raising debt and private equity for middle market companies, and raising funds for private equity funds and hedge funds. The firm differentiates itself by its focus on customer needs and customization, utilizing an independent value-driven approach to fixed income structuring and trading for institutional clients. Guggenheim Partners, LLC offers financial services expertise within its asset management, investment advisory, capital markets, institutional finance, and merchant banking business lines. Our clients consist of an elite mix of individuals, family offices, endowments, foundations, insurance companies, pension plans and other institutions that together have entrusted the firm with supervision

of more than \$100 billion in assets. A global diversified financial services firm, Guggenheim Partners office locations include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Houston, London, Dublin, Geneva, Hong Kong and Dubai. Additional information can be found at <http://www.guggenheimpartners.com>.

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