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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett, Inc. Announces New Appointment in Research

May 18, 2009, Chicago, IL- Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett announces the appointment of John L. Rodis as Vice President in its research department. Mr. Rodis will provide equity research and analysis on a number of small- and mid-cap financial institutions primarily in the Midwestern part of the United States.

Prior to joining Howe Barnes, Mr. Rodis was a Managing Director for Stieven Capital Advisors, a St. Louis-based registered investment advisor focusing on investments in the financial services industry. Prior to joining Stieven Capital in 2005, Mr. Rodis was a research analyst at Stifel Nicolaus. He received his B.S. in Finance from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and his M.B.A. from St. Louis University.

“John is a great addition to our Research Department. He has extensive experience covering banks from both the sell-side and the buy-side. He is well known among institutional investors and bank management teams, especially in the central and western portion of the U.S.,” commented Jeff Davis, Senior Vice President and Director of Research.

Established in 1915, Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett, Inc. is a full service brokerage firm headquartered in Chicago, IL with offices in six states throughout the U.S. Through its equity capital markets, research, investment banking, private equity and asset finance services departments, Howe Barnes specializes in community banks and thrifts. Through its private client services department, the firm provides investment advice and products to both individual and institutional customers. Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett is the exclusive provider of capital markets services for the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA). The firm delivers fixed income products and services through a strategic initiative with Vining Sparks IBG, Memphis, Tennessee.

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