

Loop Capital Markets Announces 13 New Hires to Expand Public Finance and Other Capabilities

CHICAGO, August 6, 2008 – Loop Capital Markets, LLC (“Loop Capital”) announced the appointment of 13 new professionals to augment its Public Finance, Fixed Income and Equity Sales and Trading, and Corporate Services teams.

“Today’s market offers exceptional opportunities for specialty and regional investment banks with the right professional talent,” said Jim Reynolds, Jr., Chief Executive Officer. He noted that a number of major investment banks have reduced personnel in virtually every area including public finance where groups have been reduced significantly and even eliminated entirely at a time when falling tax revenues have increased the demand among state and municipal governments for innovative financial solutions.

“Loop Capital’s continued commitment to the investment banking and brokerage business overall has enabled us to attract highly accomplished bankers, salesmen and traders from some of the nation’s most prominent firms,” Mr. Reynolds continued. Recent appointments will help to expand Loop Capital’s nationwide footprint by adding professionals to its Chicago, New York and Los Angeles offices. In addition, the firm is opening new offices in Orlando and Washington, DC.

- **Rita C. Kahn**, named to the newly-created position of Managing Director and Chief Communications Officer, reports directly to the CEO. Her 30 years of experience includes prior positions with UBS and Merrill Lynch. Heading the Washington, DC office, Ms. Kahn oversees the development and continuance of both government and corporate relationships.

The largest expansion is within Loop Capital’s Public Finance team, overseen by Warren “Bo” Daniels, Managing Director and Head of Public Finance:

- **Cody Press**, Managing Director and Head of the Western Region, has over 23 years of municipal experience. He previously ran the Western Region Public Finance Groups at both J.P. Morgan and Merrill Lynch. At Citigroup, he headed the Los Angeles office. Based in Los Angeles, Mr. Press will focus on large issuers on the west coast.
- **Margaret Lezcano**, Managing Director and Head of the Southeast Region, joined from UBS. Her 14 years of experience also includes positions at Citigroup and Goldman Sachs. She specializes in new and reemerging credits and has extensive experience with catastrophe, transportation and general government financings. Ms. Lezcano is domiciled in Orlando.
- **Robert Walsh**, Managing Director and Head of the Transportation Group, joined Loop Capital from JP Morgan, where he was a transportation specialist working with issuers nationwide. He has more than 20 years of experience and is based in Chicago.

- **Banting Wu**, Senior Vice President of the Technical Services Group within the Public Finance team, has more than 20 years of experience in the finance industry. Mr. Wu, who will be based in New York will focus on technical analysis and analytical services for the unique characteristics of issues in the State of New York. He was previously a Vice President at JP Morgan.

The addition of Mr. Wu will bring the total number of professionals in New York to nearly 25.

- **Joe Crowley**, Senior Vice President, joined Loop Capital from Citigroup with 18 years of public finance experience. He covers municipal issuers in Southern California and has previously worked with the California Legislative Analyst's Office for three years. He is based in Los Angeles.
- **Jonathan Yu**, Vice President, joined from JP Morgan and will provide technical support for the firm's general state and local banking business. Mr. Yu has 8 years of experience and will be domiciled in Chicago.
- **Joseph Nichols**, Assistant Vice President and Short-Term Desk Specialist, joined Loop Capital from UBS and will contribute to the expansion of Loop Capital's short-term trading team. Mr. Nichols has 10 years of experience in cash management and institutional bond trading and will bring this experience to the Chicago short-term trading desk.
- **Rohit Syal**, Associate, previously served as a Project Manager with Wilbur Smith Associates' Transportation Finance Division and will complement Loop Capital's infrastructure practice. He is based in Chicago.

Loop Capital's Chicago Equity and Fixed Income Sales and Trading desks have three new hires:

- **McKinley Brown**, Director of Taxable Sales and Trading, will leverage his 25 years of experience to further expand Loop Capital's client base. Previously, he worked with LaSalle, ABN Amro, and Bank One
- **Alex Moore**, Director of Municipal Sales and Trading, joined Loop Capital from JP Morgan. He has 20 years of sales and trading experience.
- **Julia Saunders, Senior Vice President**, joined Loop Capital's Equity Desk as a Trader, and is experienced in hybrid trading strategies, electronic executions, and algorithms. She previously held positions at Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch and has over a decade of experience working on Wall Street.

Loop Capital's Corporate Services team has added:

- **Sixu Hu**, Investment Banking Analyst. Hu previously worked at the Bank of China International in its investment banking branch and at Calyon Financial as a CBOT floor clerk assistant. Ms. Hu will be based in Chicago.

“Loop Capital will maximize opportunities created by dislocations in the financial markets,” said Mr. Reynolds. “Challenging times require investment banks to find ways to provide value to clients, rather than preemptorily reducing staff and client service.”

About Loop Capital

Loop Capital, founded in 1997, is a provider of a broad range of integrated capital solutions for corporate, governmental and institutional entities. Loop Capital Markets and its affiliates, Loop Financial Futures and Loop Financial Products, serve clients in corporate and public finance, financial advisory services, equity, taxable and tax-exempt securities sales and trading, analytical services as well as, commodities trading and interest rate swaps. Headquartered in Chicago, the firm has nearly 100 professionals in eleven offices located in Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Hartford, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Oakland and West Palm Beach.

For additional information please visit: www.loopcap.com.

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