

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COHEN FINANCIAL CREATES CHIEF UNDERWRITER POSITION; HIRES
FORMER ASSOCIATE JIM MCCARTNEY**

Chicago (May 12, 2008) – Cohen Financial, a national real estate capital services firm, today announced that it has created the position of Chief Underwriter and hired James T. McCartney, a former Cohen Financial associate. In this position, McCartney will oversee the capital markets analysts and underwriting professionals and resources needed to support the flow of transactions originated by Cohen Financial's Capital Markets teams. He is charged with providing depth to the firms underwriting standards while managing its analysts.

"We created the position of Chief Underwriter to better serve our clients and lenders needs," said Cathy Bronkema, Managing Director of Cohen Financial's Capital Markets unit. "Jim is a great fit for this position as he brings a wealth of expertise and experience back to Cohen Financial. He will lead and provide an infusion of knowledge to our analytical team."

"Recruiting Jim fits in with Cohen Financial's long range goal of hiring top talent to provide best-in-class service and drive business performance," said Manny Brown, Cohen Financial's Chief Operating Officer.

McCartney will teach, train and mentor Cohen Financial analysts and underwriters on advanced underwriting skills, building upon underwriting standards across the entire firm. He will oversee all construction, structured and equity deals by actively managing the analyst assigned to each project, reviewing the work and providing deal structure and expertise. McCartney will also manage the underwriting assignments Cohen Financial undertakes on an outsourced basis for clients and will assist in underwriting and evaluating new business opportunities.

"I am excited about joining Cohen Financial in a new position," said McCartney. "I believe strongly in the firm's knowledge and expertise based national platform and am eager to add value. My main goal is to ensure that Cohen Financial provides best-in-class solutions to the capital markets."

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Prior to taking the position of Chief Underwriter with Cohen Financial, McCartney was Vice President - Risk Manager for Merrill Lynch Capital. Prior to this position, he was Assistant Vice President of Cosmopolitan Bank and Trust. McCartney worked up to Assistant Director of Underwriting while with Cohen Financial from 1997 to 2004. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and is a licensed Illinois Real Estate Broker.

About Cohen Financial

Cohen Financial is a national real estate capital services firm offering debt and equity placement, investment brokerage, loan administration and advisory services. The company is recognized as one of the nation's largest originators of commercial real estate financing. Cohen Financial serves clients throughout the U.S. from offices in 10 major markets.

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