

Contact:

Dan Coughlin, President & CEO
Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett
Chicago, Illinois
312-655-2957

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett Establishes An Asset Finance Services Division

March 21, 2007, Chicago, IL- Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett is pleased to announce the formation of an Asset Finance Services division and the appointment of Kenneth D. Segal as Senior Vice President and Director of the division. This new initiative will provide loan portfolio assessment, advisory and brokerage services as well as expertise in valuing and trading an array of consumer and commercial loan assets for community banks.

Mr. Segal has over 20 years of loan experience in the banking industry most recently as Managing Director of Capital Markets and Syndication at The Bankers Bank, Specialty Finance Group LLC, formerly GMAC Commercial Mortgage Corporation. Mr. Segal has provided advisory services for both performing and distressed-debt purchasers, value enhancement and helped develop restructuring, securitization, acquisition and divestment strategies. He also has direct lending experience at Chase Manhattan, Toronto Dominion and Fleet National Bank. Mr. Segal graduated Magna Cum Laude with his B.A. from Bowdoin College and his M.B.A. in Finance and Accounting from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

Mr. Segal commented, "I am very excited about joining a firm with such a rich relationship base and a history of providing outstanding client service. I look forward to bringing my significant loan origination and brokerage expertise to the firm's extensive and growing base of relationships."

According to Howe Barnes President and CEO Daniel E. Coughlin, "Our firm continues to expand the list of products and services we deliver for our clients. We provide capital market services for hundreds of community bank clients and many have sought our advice and assistance in the loan portfolio purchase and disposition arena. With the addition of Ken Segal we have a quality individual with the necessary transaction experience to bring this important service to all of our community bank relationships."

Established in 1915, Howe Barnes Hoefler & Arnett, Inc. is a full service brokerage firm headquartered in Chicago, IL with offices in eight states throughout the U.S. Its banking department specializes in sales, trading, research and corporate finance services for 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. (www.howebarnes.com)