

NEWS FROM AVONDALE PARTNERS, LLC

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AVONDALE PARTNERS COMPLETES MORE THAN \$2.0 BILLION OF INVESTMENT BANKING TRANSACTIONS & ASSIGNMENTS IN 2007

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (February 8, 2008) – Avondale Partners, LLC completed more than \$2.0 billion of investment banking transactions and assignments in 2007, announced Jeff Nahley, senior managing partner and head of the investment banking group at Avondale Partners. Avondale is a national investment banking firm headquartered in Nashville.

2007 marked Avondale's sixth consecutive year of record performance in the investment banking group since the firm's inception, according to Nahley. "Even with the credit market and housing related issues that began in the late summer of 2007, we continue to see strength in our deal flow from middle market clients," said Nahley.

Avondale's investment banking industry practices focus primarily on alternative energy; business services and government outsourcing; consumer and industrials; healthcare and healthcare information technology; and the media, telecom and technology sectors.

The following list includes significant transactions for Avondale clients in 2007.

Financial Advisory/Mergers and Acquisitions - Avondale served as financial advisor to a number of leading public and private companies throughout the U.S., including:

- **Advocat**, (NASDAQ: AVCA), based in Brentwood, Tennessee. Avondale served as exclusive financial advisor in connection with the acquisition of seven skilled nursing facilities from Senior Management Services of America North Texas, Inc. This deal was completed in August.
- **Community Education Centers, Inc.**, privately held and based in Roseland, New Jersey. Avondale served as exclusive financial advisor in connection with CEC's acquisition of CiviGenics, Inc, headquartered in Marlborough, Massachusetts, operating three divisions including: in-prison treatment, community corrections, and jail management services. The acquisition closed in May.
- **Message Secure**, privately held and based in Lowell, Massachusetts. Avondale served as exclusive financial advisor in connection with the sale of substantially all the company's assets to Perimeter eSecurity. This transaction closed in January.
- **National Healthcare Corporation**, (AMEX: NHC), based in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Avondale served as financial advisor in connection with two transactions for NHC. Avondale served as financial advisor and rendered a fairness opinion to the special committee of the NHC Board of Directors in regards to the \$270 million acquisition of National Health Realty (AMEX: NHR). This deal closed in October. Additionally, Avondale served as financial advisor to the NHC Board of Directions with respect to the adoption of a shareholder rights plan in August.

- **Physicians Management Group**, privately held and based in Los Angeles, California. Avondale served as exclusive financial advisor in connection with the sale of a majority interest of PMG to Bertram Capital. Bertram Capital is a private equity firm based in Palo Alto, California. This deal closed in May.
- **SpectraLink**, (NASDAQ: SLNK), based in Boulder, Colorado. Avondale served as financial advisor and rendered a fairness opinion in connection with the company's \$220 million sale to Polycom (NASDAQ: PLCM). The transaction was completed in March.
- **Wells Fargo Foothill**, (NYSE: WFC), based in Santa Monica, California, part of Wells Fargo & Company. Avondale completed multiple valuation assignments throughout the year in connection with the company's restaurant finance practice.
- **Video Applications**, privately held and based in Tustin, California. Avondale served as exclusive financial advisor to the company in connection with the merger with Scharff Weisberg. The deal closed in August.

Private Placements and Debt Transactions – Avondale served as placement agent in connection with the following capital raising transactions:

- **Advocat**, (NASDAQ: AVCA), based in Brentwood, Tennessee. Avondale served as exclusive financial advisor in connection with the placement of \$31.5 million in senior debt financing incurred in connection with the acquisition of seven skilled nursing facilities from the Senior Management Services of America North Texas, Inc. This deal was completed in August.
- **Behavioral Centers of America**, privately held, based in Nashville, Tennessee. Avondale served as exclusive financial advisor and placement agent in connection with the company's \$40 million equity investment by Linden LLC, based in Chicago, Illinois. This deal closed in July.
- **Sumner Regional Health Systems**, non profit, 501(c)3 based in Gallatin, Tennessee. Avondale served as financial advisor in connection with the health system's \$150 million tax-exempt public debt offering. This deal closed in August.
- **Video Applications**, privately held and based in Tustin, California. Avondale served as exclusive placement agent to the debt financing in connection with the merger with Scharff Weisberg. The deal closed in August.

Public Equity Offerings - Avondale served as a co-managing underwriter in connection with approximately \$845 million of follow-on, secondary and initial (IPO) public equity offerings throughout the year.

- **Environmental Power Corporation**, (NASDAQ: EPG), based in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, \$28 million follow-on offering
- **FGX International**, (NASDAQ: FGXI), based in Smithfield, Rhode Island, \$192 million IPO
- **The Geo Group, Inc.**, (NYSE: GEO), based in Boca Raton, Florida, \$243 million follow-on offering
- **Triangle Capital Corporation**, (NASDAQ: TCAP), based in Raleigh, North Carolina, \$72 million IPO
- **Syniverse**, (NYSE: SVR), based in Tampa, Florida, \$310 million secondary offering

"Wall Street is undergoing what appears to be another dramatic correction in terms of deal flow and personnel adjustments. We view this volatility as an opportunity to continue our measured growth and focus on the more consistent opportunities associated with full service, middle market investment banking," said Nahley.

Avondale Partners, LLC is a leading, full-service institutional investment bank headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., with offices in Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, San Diego, and San Francisco. The firm focuses on providing M&A advisory services, debt and equity underwriting, and private placements of bank debt, mezzanine finance and equity capital for its corporate finance clients. In addition, Avondale offers high quality equity research and sales and trading execution to institutional clients throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe as well as institutional asset management. Since its inception in 2001, Avondale Partners has executed more than 100 investment banking transactions and assignments for its clients exceeding \$9.7 billion in total value. More information on Avondale Partners can be found at its web site, www.avondalepartnersllc.com.