

NEWS FROM AVONDALE PARTNERS, LLC

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AVONDALE PARTNERS ADDS MICHAEL E. RYAN AS MANAGING DIRECTOR TO INVESTMENT BANKING GROUP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 7, 2008) - Avondale Partners, LLC has named Michael E. Ryan managing director and head of new issues in the firm's investment banking group, announced Jeff Nahley, senior managing partner and head of the investment banking group.

Ryan is filling a new position as head of new issues, according to Nahley. He will focus on originating and executing public offerings, including IPOs, follow-on offerings, and private placements in public companies (PIPEs), as well as special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), fixed income transactions and share repurchase programs within Avondale's industry verticals.

Ryan joins Avondale from JP Morgan's capital markets group in New York, where he served as vice president and focused on the origination and execution of new issues. Previously, he was with Merrill Lynch's private client group and J.C. Bradford.

"Mike brings a tremendous amount of experience working with both investment banking coverage bankers and capital markets sales and trading professionals," said Nahley. "His book run transactions at JP Morgan exceeded \$20 billion of value and included offerings in a number of our core verticals. We're delighted to welcome him to the firm."

Ryan holds an MBA from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University and a B.S. in finance from the University of Dayton. Ryan and his family have relocated from New York to Nashville.

Avondale Partners, LLC is a leading, full-service institutional investment bank headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., with offices in Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and St. Louis. 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.