WINTRUST

NEWS RELEASE

Wayne Hummer Asset Management Adds Two Nationally Renown Investment Managers

2008-01-17

LAKE FOREST, Ill., Jan. 17 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Wintrust Financial Corporation ("Wintrust" or "the Company") (Nasdaq: WTFC) announced the appointment of Daniel J. Cardell, CFA as President and Chief Investment Officer of its subsidiary Wayne Hummer Asset Management. Cardell will lead an aggressive expansion of the firm's investment strategies. Todd D. Doersch has been appointed Head of Product Management, responsible for launching new products through the firm's multiple distribution channels.

Cardell brings over 25 years of investment management experience and extensive expertise to Wayne Hummer. In his career, he has served as Director of Equities at Weiss, Peck & Greer in New York and Director of Equities at the Bank of America in Chicago. In addition, Cardell has developed and managed investment strategies at Continental Bank, Mellon Bank and Maryland National Bank. Most recently, Cardell has been pursuing his avocation of teaching finance to MBA candidates at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Quantitative Alliance, an international professional organization of quantitative investment practitioners. Cardell received his B.S. in Finance from Wilkes University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.

Todd Doersch joins Wayne Hummer from Cognitive Investment Management, a hedge fund firm Doersch founded. Doersch has also served as CEO of Barra RogersCasey Investment Consulting, among other leadership roles in the Barra organization (now MSCIBarra) as well as COO for Fuller & Thayer Asset Management. Doersch currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Quantitative Alliance and has served as board member or strategic advisor for several start-up firms. He holds two B.A. degrees from Stanford University where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and he earned an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

"We are very pleased to have Dan and Todd joining our leadership team," says Tom Zidar, Chairman of Wayne Hummer Wealth Management. "They bring national recognition in the investment management space and complement each other's strengths well. I believe that bringing Dan and Todd on board marks the beginning of a period of transformational growth for Wayne Hummer and will be a key first step in realizing our vision of becoming Chicago's premiere money manager."

"We plan to take the Wayne Hummer Wealth Management organization to the next level," said Cardell. "There is a strong commitment at Wintrust to grow the wealth management business. The rich heritage of the Wayne Hummer franchise combined with a state-of-the-art investment infrastructure will enable us to develop new winning investment strategies for our private clients and institutional investors."

Doersch sees tremendous growth opportunity within the Wayne Hummer distribution channels. "The professional depth is there. What Wayne Hummer's clients have been asking for is simply a broader investment palette. We intend to build a comprehensive array of products to fill out a diversified aggregate portfolio."

About Wintrust Financial Corporation

Wintrust is a financial holding company with assets of approximately $9 billion whose common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Wintrust operates fifteen community banks that provide a full complement of commercial and consumer loan and deposit products and services through over 75 banking facilities in the Chicago and Milwaukee metropolitan areas. Wintrust also provides brokerage, trust and investment services to customers primarily in the Midwest, as well as customers of the banks, and provides services in mortgage banking and several specialty-lending niches.

About Wayne Hummer Wealth Management

Wayne Hummer Wealth Management provides a comprehensive suite of wealth management services and oversees nearly $7 billion in client assets. Since 1931, Wayne Hummer Investments has been providing a full-range of investment products and services tailored to meet the specific needs of individual investors throughout the country. Wayne Hummer Asset Management Company is the investment advisory affiliate of Wayne Hummer Investments, is advisor to the Wayne Hummer family of mutual funds, and provides advisory services to individuals, institutions, municipal and tax-exempt organizations, as well as portfolios of Wayne Hummer Trust Company. Wayne Hummer Trust Company provides trust and investment products and services to individuals and businesses in Wintrust community bank markets.

"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: Statements in this press release regarding Wintrust Financial Corp.'s business which are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements" that

involve risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Report or Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year.

SOURCE Wintrust Financial Corporation

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