WINTRUST

NEWS RELEASE

Wintrust Financial Announces Addition of Jim Kiley to Wealth Services Team

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LAKE FOREST, Ill., March 15, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Wintrust Financial Corporation ("Wintrust") (Nasdaq:WTFC) announced the appointment of James (Jim) W. Kiley as Managing Director of Wintrust Wealth Services.

Bringing extensive investment management and private banking experience to Wintrust, Kiley will be charged with developing new business opportunities from the Chicago Loop office of Wintrust Wealth Services. Prior to joining Wintrust, he was President of Kiley Capital, an investment capital company he founded in 2006. Previously, Kiley spent over 25 years as Managing Director of Chicago operations for Weiss Peck and Greer, LLC, and Robeco Investment Management. Kiley has also served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority, as well as Assistant for Economic Development to Governor James R. Thompson. He received a B.S. and Masters from Northern Illinois University. Kiley is a Life Trustee of the Illinois Institute of Technology, formerly serving as trustee, member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Investment Committee. His brother, Thomas R. Kiley, is CEO of Great Lakes Advisors, a Wintrust Wealth Management Company.

"Jim brings an extensive amount of wealth services experience and contacts to the organization," said Edward J. Wehmer, President & CEO of Wintrust. "He maintains a great network in Chicago."

Braden Smith, Executive Vice President of Wintrust Wealth Services, further elaborated, "It is a great opportunity to add someone of Jim's caliber to the Wealth Services team. As Wintrust Wealth Services expands in 2012, both in the Chicago market and its suburbs, we are committed to meeting the needs of high-net-worth individuals and families on both sides of their balance sheet."

About Wintrust

Wintrust is a financial holding company with assets of approximately $16 billion whose common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Wintrust operates fifteen community banks that provide a full complement of commercial and consumer loan and deposit products and services through approximately 100 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, insurance premium financing and several specialty-lending niches.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Investors are cautioned that such statements are predictions and that actual events or results may differ materially. Wintrust's expected financial results or other plans are subject to a number of 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" and the forward-looking statement disclosure contained in Wintrust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year and in Wintrust's subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made and Wintrust undertakes no duty to update the information.

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Source: Wintrust Financial Corporation