WINTRUST

NEWS RELEASE

Wintrust Financial Corporation Announces Promotion of Sandy A. Lincoln

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LAKE FOREST, Ill., March 10 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- James F. Duca, Executive Vice President of Wealth Management for Wintrust Financial Corporation (Nasdaq: WTFC) announces the promotion of Sandy A. Lincoln from Managing Director to President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Wayne Hummer Asset Management Company. Lincoln succeeds Mr. Duca who until now served as President & CEO of Wayne Hummer Asset Management Company. Mr. Duca will remain Executive Vice President of Wealth Management for Wintrust, as well as President & CEO of Wayne Hummer Trust Company.

"Sandy has made significant contributions to Wayne Hummer's asset management capabilities and, in this new position, he will guide the firm's growth in the quality and breadth of the asset management services we offer," said Mr. Duca. "His extensive background and professional reputation will prove to be a great benefit to our clients as we grow the asset management services of Wayne Hummer," continued Duca.

Lincoln joined Wayne Hummer in February 2003, as Managing Director. Prior employment includes: Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of Lake Forest Capital Management, Chief Operating Officer Lincoln Capital Management, Chief Investment Officer of Kemper Financial Services and Kemper Corporation, and President of Wm. Mercer's Investment Consulting Services subsidiary. Lincoln holds an undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University and an MBA from Loyola University.

"Sandy has been a real asset since joining the Wayne Hummer team last year. We are pleased to promote him to President and CEO of Wayne Hummer Asset Management Company. He brings a depth of knowledge and track record that only somebody with 25 to 30 years in the industry can supply," commented Edward J. Wehmer, President & CEO of Wintrust Financial Corporation.

Wintrust is a financial holding company whose common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the ticker symbol "WTFC". Its nine suburban Chicago community bank subsidiaries, each of which was founded as a de novo bank since December 1991, are located primarily in high income retail markets -- Lake Forest Bank & Trust Company, Hinsdale Bank & Trust Company, North Shore Community Bank & Trust Company in Wilmette, Libertyville Bank & Trust Company, Barrington Bank & Trust Company, Crystal Lake Bank & Trust Company, Northbrook Bank & Trust Company, Advantage National Bank in Elk Grove Village and Village Bank and Trust - Arlington Heights. The banks also operate facilities in Lake Bluff, Highland Park, Highwood, Clarendon Hills, Western Springs, Riverside, Glencoe, Winnetka, Skokie, Wauconda, Hoffman Estates, Cary, McHenry, Roselle and Prospect Heights, Illinois. Additionally, the Company operates various non-bank subsidiaries. First Insurance Funding Corporation, one of the largest commercial insurance premium finance companies operating in the United States, serves commercial loan customers throughout the country. Tricom, Inc. of Milwaukee provides high-yielding, short-term accounts receivable financing and value-added out-sourced administrative services, such as data processing of payrolls, billing and cash management services, to temporary staffing service clients located throughout the United States. Wayne Hummer Investments, LLC is a broker-dealer providing a full range of private client and brokerage services to clients located primarily in the Midwest. Focused Investments LLC is a broker-dealer that provides a full range of investment solutions to clients through a network of community-based financial institutions throughout the Midwest. Wayne Hummer Asset Management Company provides money management services and advisory services to individual accounts as well as the Wayne Hummer Companies' three proprietary mutual funds. Wayne Hummer Trust Company, a trust subsidiary, allows Wintrust to service customers' trust and investment needs at each banking location. Wintrust Information Technology Services Company provides information technology support, item capture and statement preparation services to the Wintrust subsidiaries.

Currently, Wintrust operates a total of 36 banking offices and is in the process of constructing several additional branch facilities. All of the Company's banking subsidiaries are locally managed with large local boards of directors. Wintrust Financial Corporation has been one of the fastest growing de novo bank groups in Illinois.

SOURCE Wintrust Financial Corporation
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