



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Churchill Financial Launches Office in Chicago

- Announces appointment of Hugh E. Wilder to lead new office -

New York, NY - May 21, 2007 – Churchill Financial Holdings LLC (“Churchill Financial”), a middle market commercial finance company, today announced the continuation of the firm’s broader growth strategy with the opening of a new office in Chicago. The office, which will be headed by Hugh E. Wilder, Managing Director and Head of the Chicago office, and Kevin T. Murray, Managing Director, represents the next step in the development of a national footprint for Churchill Financial.

Mr. Wilder and Mr. Murray are both seasoned professionals, each bringing more than 20 years of experience in origination, underwriting and portfolio management to Churchill Financial. Both men also have notable ties to the Chicago area: while Mr. Wilder has worked in San Francisco for the past three years, most recently as Senior Managing Director of the Global Sponsor Finance group at GE Commercial Finance Corporation, the majority of his 22 years with GE and its predecessor, Heller Financial, were in Chicago, where he worked from 1985 to 2004. While in Chicago, Mr. Wilder held a series of senior positions, including Senior Vice President, Corporate Asset Quality.

Mr. Murray has been based in Chicago for the majority of his career, beginning with Bank One Corporation and its predecessor organizations, First Chicago and NBD Bank, and most recently with GE Corporate Financial Services, where he was a Managing Director of the Global Sponsor Finance group.

“Opening an office in Chicago is an important step for Churchill Financial, as we grow our business and continue to develop a national presence,” said George Kurteson, Head of Middle Market Finance at Churchill Financial. “Following the success we’ve experienced since our launch last year, we are confident that now is the opportune time to increase our coverage in the Midwest market, and that we have the right people to lead that expansion. We have known both Hugh and Kevin professionally for many years. They are both extremely well-respected industry figures in Chicago, and I am confident that their considerable talent will quickly prove to be a tremendous asset to the firm.”

“I am very excited to be joining Churchill at this time in its development,” said Mr. Wilder. “I look forward to working with Churchill Financial’s experienced management team to launch the Chicago office and help the firm continue to grow.”

“Churchill has assembled a strong and cohesive team,” said Mr. Murray, “and Hugh and I are pleased to be responsible for building the Chicago office.”

Founded in February 2006, Churchill Financial has grown significantly in recent months with new hires and strategic acquisitions. Recent new hires include David Buzen, the firm’s Chief Financial Officer, and Arminda Youse-Warde, Vice President. In April, the firm announced the acquisition of Churchill Capital’s Mezzanine Finance Business.

Churchill Financial's new Chicago office will open in late May 2007, and is planned to grow significantly with the expansion of the firm's business.

About Churchill Financial

Churchill Financial, based in New York, is a leading commercial finance and asset management company focused on providing senior and subordinated debt financing to middle market companies and managing portfolios of CDOs and other fixed income funds. The firm currently has over \$4.5 billion in assets under management. It targets lending to companies backed by leading private equity firms and other investors. Churchill Financial was founded by Bear Stearns Merchant Banking and Senior Management in February 2006 and has approximately \$1 billion of committed capital to support its financing activities.

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