

Caspar Bentinck Joins Sandler O’Neill as Managing Director

Veteran Investment Banker Will Focus on West Coast Banks and Financial Services Companies

New York – July 1, 2015 – Sandler O’Neill + Partners, L.P., a full-service investment banking firm specializing in financial services companies, today announced that Caspar Bentinck has joined the firm as a Managing Director in the firm’s Investment Banking Group.

Bentinck will provide strategic and financial advice to financial institutions, primarily those located in the Western United States. He will be based in the firm’s San Francisco office and will report to William F. Hickey and Brian R. Sterling, Principals and Co-Heads of Investment Banking.

“I am pleased to join Sandler O’Neill, a firm synonymous with providing outstanding advice and service to financial services companies,” Bentinck said. “I believe that my nearly 20 years of experience advising on capital raising, mergers and acquisitions, and other strategic and financial issues, as well as my focus on West Coast institutions, will complement Sandler’s world class financial services franchise.”

Bentinck joins Sandler O’Neill from Jefferies & Co., where he was Head of Debt Capital Markets & Western U.S. Banks. He has advised on several of the most significant transactions involving West Coast banks in recent years, including PacWest Bancorp’s \$2.3 billion acquisition of CapitalSource Inc. in 2014 and AmericanWest Bank’s announced \$702 million merger with Banner Corp.

“We are thrilled to welcome Caspar to the firm,” said Jonathan Doyle, Senior Managing Principal of Sandler O’Neill. “He brings a wealth of experience and insight to our clients and will be a great addition to our industry-leading team on the West Coast. He has deep relationships and is keenly attuned to the issues most important to West Coast banks.”

Sandler O’Neill is one of the most active investment banking firms in merger advisory and capital raising for banks and other financial institutions. Since January 1, 2014, the firm has advised on 83 bank and thrift M&A transactions valued at an aggregate \$13.9 billion, including 15 M&A transactions in the Western region, over 50% more than any other firm.¹ Also during that period, Sandler O’Neill managed 35 public offerings or private placements of common stock nationally, raising \$12.3 billion,² and 27 public offerings or private placements of subordinated debt or senior notes.³

About Mr. Bentinck

Before joining Jefferies & Co. in 2011, Mr. Bentinck was a Managing Director at Bank of America Merrill Lynch for six years, focusing on bank debt capital markets. Prior to that, he worked in debt syndicate at Lehman Brothers, Inc. from 1997 to 2005. Mr. Bentinck holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration from the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New York University.

About Sandler O’Neill + Partners, L.P.

Founded in 1988, Sandler O’Neill + Partners is a full-service investment banking firm dedicated to providing comprehensive, innovative advisory and transaction execution services to the financial industry. The firm specializes in strategic business planning, mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, mutual-to-stock conversions, investment portfolio and interest rate risk management, fixed income securities transactions, and mortgage finance restructurings. Sandler O’Neill also is a market maker in hundreds of financial stocks and publishes equity research focused on selected banks, thrifts and insurance companies, investment banks, asset managers, specialty finance companies, e-finance companies, real estate investment trusts, and financial technology companies. Additional information about Sandler O’Neill can be found on the firm’s website at www.sandleroneill.com.

¹Source: SNL Financial, 1/1/2014 – 6/30/2015.

²Source: SNL Financial, includes public offerings and private placements of common stock for banks and thrifts, 1/1/2014 to 6/30/2015.

³Source: SNL Financial, includes subordinated and senior notes offerings for banks and thrifts, 1/1/2014 to 6/30/2015.

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