

Jason Hach Joins Sandler O’Neill as Managing Director Strengthens Firm’s Industry-Leading Advisory Services to Banks and Thrifts

New York – August 13, 2014 – Sandler O’Neill + Partners, L.P., a full-service investment banking firm specializing in financial services companies, today announced that Jason R. Hach has joined the firm as a Managing Director in the firm’s Investment Banking Group.

Hach will provide strategic and financial advice to depository institutions. He will be based in the firm’s New York headquarters 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,” Hach said. “The firm is an established leader in providing advice to financial services companies, with depository institutions at its core. I hope to bring additional insight and relationships and strengthen Sandler’s already powerful bank and thrift advisory franchise.”

Hach joins Sandler O’Neill from Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, a unit of Stifel Financial Corp., where he was a Principal and provided advisory services to banks and thrifts. In addition to hiring senior investment bankers in its depository practice, Sandler O’Neill in recent years has added dedicated investment banking teams to serve the financial technology, asset management and real estate sectors.

“In the wake of unprecedented change, banks and thrifts continue to need sound financial and strategic advice,” Hickey said. “For 26 years, Sandler O’Neill has worked closely with depository institutions, advising on their critical decisions and strategies. We have always had deep knowledge and resources in the banking space and the opportunity to add a senior advisor of Jason’s caliber is a clear win for our clients.”

“Facing significant challenges in the current environment, banks need an advisor that understands their business and helps them build real, long-term value,” Sterling added. “Jason has proven that he is more than up to the challenge and can uphold Sandler O’Neill’s commitment to client service.”

Sandler O’Neill is one of the most active investment banking firms in merger advisory and capital raising for financial institutions. Since January 1, 2011 the firm has advised on 189 financial services merger transactions valued at an aggregate of \$24.9 billion. During that same period, Sandler O’Neill managed 106 public common equity offerings that raised approximately \$39.4 billion.¹

About Mr. Hach

Mr. Hach has more than 18 years of experience in financial services. Before Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, he served as a Director of Depository Investment Banking at Janney Montgomery Scott. Prior to his investment banking career, Mr. Hach was a Senior Vice President at National City Corporation. He began his career at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he earned a Certified Public Accountant designation. He also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. Mr. Hach holds a Master of Business Administration from Carnegie Mellon University’s Tepper School of Business and a Bachelor of Science from Bucknell 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 and fixed income 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.

¹Merger transaction and capital raising statistics from SNL Financial LC as of August 8, 2014

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