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## **Mercanti Completes First Financial Advisory Assignment in 2007 with the Sale of The Sands Regent to Herbst Gaming**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN and LOS ANGELES, CA**, January 8, 2007 – Mercanti Securities, LLC, a NASD/SIPC registered broker-dealer and subsidiary of The Mercanti Group, a boutique investment bank, today announced the closing of the previously reported sale of The Sands Regent, a publicly-traded gaming company based in Reno, Nevada. The Sands Regent was sold to privately-owned Herbst Gaming, Inc., of Las Vegas, Nevada, and HGI-Casinos, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Herbst. Mercanti acted as financial advisor to the board of directors of The Sands Regent in this transaction.

Under the terms of the definitive merger agreement, which was announced on May 17, 2006, the outstanding shares of The Sands Regent were acquired by Herbst at a price of \$15 per share in cash, plus the assumption of approximately \$35 million in debt, which represents a transaction value of approximately \$153 million.

“We are pleased that, working with the The Sands Regent and its board of directors, we have helped create value for The Sands Regent’s shareholders,” said Randy Bort, Managing Director, based in Los Angeles, who lead the Mercanti advisory team.

### **About Mercanti Securities**

Mercanti Securities, LLC, member NASD/SIPC and a subsidiary of The Mercanti Group, enables Mercanti to compete with larger investment banks and provide a broad range of customized financial advisory services and transaction structures. The Mercanti Group is a results-oriented boutique financial advisory firm that embraces a fierce commitment to client service and provides creative Merger & Acquisition, Capital Raising and Strategic Advisory solutions to small and middle market companies, private equity firms and individual business owners in the consumer, health care, technology, software, business services and manufacturing industries. The Mercanti Group offers companies the expertise and capabilities of a large investment bank with the focus, attention and energy of a small entrepreneurial firm. The Mercanti Group has offices in Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Seattle. Mercanti also is strategically affiliated with Marquette Financial Companies, a diversified financial services company which is a part of the Pohlads family holdings. If you would like more information on The Mercanti Group, please visit the Web at [www.mercantigroup.com](http://www.mercantigroup.com), or contact a Mercanti professional at 612.333.0130 (Minneapolis); 310.444.0130 (Los Angeles); or 425.943.7280 (Seattle).

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