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Imperial Capital Announces Acquisition of the Mercanti Group and Opening of a Minneapolis Office

LOS ANGELES, CA--(Marketwire - December 14, 2009) - Imperial Capital, LLC, a full-service investment banking firm, announced that it has acquired all of the investment banking assets of the Mercanti Group, an advisory firm specializing in merger and acquisitions and capital markets advisory. In conjunction with the acquisition, Imperial Capital has acquired an office location in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Mercanti Group was founded in 2001 by Jim D'Aquila, an industry veteran with over 25 years of investment and merchant banking experience with Credit Suisse First Boston, Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette (DLJ), Dain Rauscher, Drexel Burnham and E.F. Hutton. The Mercanti Group has significant expertise in providing advisory and capital market solutions to middle market companies, institutional investors and private equity firms in a wide range of industries with particular expertise in the Consumer sector.

With the acquisition, Imperial Capital will have over 170 employees in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Houston, Boston and Minneapolis. The investment banking group will include 60 investment banking professionals with 30 specializing in restructuring advisory services. Imperial Capital currently has 50 institutional sales and trading and 20 institutional research professionals focusing on the entire capital structure.

"We have created one of the most innovative full-service investment banks, offering a uniquely integrated platform of comprehensive services to institutional investors and middle market companies. Due to the positioning of our firm and the evolving landscape in investment banking we have attracted talent such as the Mercanti Group over the last two years," said Jason Reese, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Imperial Capital. "The Mercanti Group will add significant depth to Imperial Capital's Investment Banking Group, in providing merger and acquisition and capital markets advisory services particularly in the Consumer sector."

"Imperial Capital provides us the ability to greatly expand our client offering with the firm's significant investment banking, capital markets, institutional research and sales and trading capabilities," said Jim D'Aquila, Founder and Managing Director of the Mercanti Group. "Imperial has a platform which is extremely well suited to the capabilities of our bankers."

The Mercanti team will include the following investment banking professionals: Jim D'Aquila, Managing Director; Randy Bort, Managing Director; Tom Clerkin, Managing Director; Brian Wood, Managing Director; and Dave Remick, Senior Vice President.

Imperial Capital's new Minneapolis office address is:

60 South Sixth Street
Suite 3720
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 333-0130

About Imperial Capital, LLC

Imperial Capital, founded in 1997, is a full-service investment banking firm with offices in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Boston, Houston and Minneapolis. The firm currently employs over 170 professionals and offers a wide range of proprietary products and services to institutional investors, middle market companies, and private equity firms. Imperial Capital provides institutional clients research and sales and trading of high yield and distressed debt securities, bank debt, convertible bonds, preferred stocks, and equities. The firm provides middle market companies and financial sponsors with capital markets, merger and acquisitions, capital structure, restructuring and recapitalization advisory services. More information about Imperial Capital can be found at www.imperialcapital.com.

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