



The Mercanti Group Welcomes A New Managing Director

LOS ANGELES — February 3, 2003 — The Mercanti Group, LLC announced that Randall Bort has joined the Los Angeles office of the merchant and investment banking firm as a Managing Director.

Randy was most recently at Credit Suisse First Boston, where he was responsible for consumer non-durable products, personal care products and household products. Prior to CSFB, Randy was with Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette and Drexel Burnham Lambert in Los Angeles. He received a BA in Economics and Mathematics from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA in Finance and Entrepreneurial Management from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

“Randy is a highly successful banker. His years of experience with consumer-related companies and his ability to focus on the interests of our clients make him a perfect fit for Mercanti. I am excited to be working with Randy again.” said Jim D’Aquila, Managing Director.

About The Mercanti Group

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. Over the last three decades, the professionals of Mercanti gained a wealth of Wall Street experience while they were partners together at a few of the largest and most admired multi-national investment banks. Mercanti offers companies that are increasingly ignored by Wall Street the expertise and capabilities of a large investment bank with the focus, attention and energy of a small entrepreneurial firm. 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. Mercanti has offices in Minneapolis and Los Angeles. If you would like more information on The Mercanti Group, please visit the Web at www.mercantigroup.com, or contact a Mercanti professional at 612.333.0130 (Minneapolis) or 310.444.0130 (Los Angeles).