



Mariner Holdings, LLC Continues Growth of Asset Management Business; Closes Agreement to Establish Ascent Investment Partners, LLC

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LEAWOOD, Kan. – January 20, 2010 – Mariner Holdings, LLC (“Mariner”) is pleased to announce the formation of Ascent Investment Partners (AIP), LLC, a new fixed-income investment management firm based in St. Louis, MO specializing in municipal, corporate, government and other fixed-income securities

Mariner CEO, Marty Bicknell, commented: “We are exceptionally pleased to be joined by Sandy Pourcillie and Jeff Ladd. Their expertise in the fixed-income space is a necessity as we continue to grow. Through the Ascent Investment Partners team, we have further strengthened our presence in fixed-income investing and have expanded our asset management product offerings.”

Mariner Chief Investment Officer, Gary Henson echoed Bicknell adding, “This new firm enhances our experience in an asset class which is increasingly in demand by our investors as they further appreciate the stability of fixed-income investing given the recent volatility of the market. Ascent Investment Partners’ team has years of experience directly related to the analysis of the asset class as well as the management of the funds. We continue to strive to provide the highest quality of investment options and this strengthens our presence in the market.”

Sandra Pourcillie, who will serve as Principal of Ascent Investment Partners, commented “Jeff and I are extremely excited for the opportunity to partner with Mariner. We look forward to building a first-class fixed income firm and working closely with the talented team at Mariner.” Sandy comes to Ascent with 15 years of financial industry experience, including more than 12 years with A.G. Edwards (predecessor firm to Wells Fargo Advisors). She directed the firm’s fixed income asset management group, which had assets under management of \$1.7 billion as of 12/31/09. Sandy has held the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation since 1999, and is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, earning both a BA and MA in political science and economics.

Jeff Ladd will serve as Principal of Ascent Investment Partners. Jeff has more than 12 years of financial industry experience, including 11 years with A.G. Edwards. His responsibilities included the management of more than \$1 billion in separately managed tax-exempt portfolios as well as the development of customized fixed income strategies. Jeff earned a BS BA degree with an emphasis in Finance and Banking from the University of Missouri-Columbia and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.

Ascent will offer both taxable and tax-exempt investment strategies with flexibility to meet individual clients’ time horizons and tax needs. The primary objective of all strategies will be achieving a competitive total return, within the framework of a conservative risk tolerance. Ascent will focus on serving clients from the mass affluent to the truly high net worth, at very competitive fees.

The formation of AIP will not result in any changes to Mariner Holdings’ business strategy. Terms of the closing were not disclosed.

About Mariner Holdings, LLC

Founded in 2006 by former A. G. Edwards investment professionals and management staff, Mariner is an independent investment company focused on wealth and asset management. The asset management platform provides institutional investors, foundations and third party managers with high quality core and alternative investment strategies. The wealth management platform offers business owners, executives, and high net worth individuals extensive portfolio management, tax and estate planning, risk management and other services. For more information, visit <http://www.mariner-holdings.com/>.