



**MONROE SECURITIES, INC.
EXPANDS TO THE WEST COAST**

October 15, 2011 (Chicago, IL) - Monroe Securities, Inc., headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, announced today that the firm has opened an office in San Francisco, California. Gray Medlin, Managing Director and Co-Head of Investment Banking for Monroe, will lead the firm's West Coast operations.

Gray Medlin began his career as a financial advisor to community banks in the late 1980's, and in 1991 he founded The Carson Medlin Company, which combined forces with Monroe Securities earlier in 2011. In commenting on the firm's new San Francisco office, Medlin said "Although we are now officially opening on the West Coast, we have actually served clients in California, Oregon and Washington for a number of years. Our West Coast office will help us serve clients in the West even better. The West Coast has favorable demographics and a vibrant community banking industry. The region is attractive in ways that are similar to the firm's traditional Southeastern and Midwestern markets, and we believe that we can be successful in the West with our unique brand of community bank advisory services."

Medlin continued "The community banking industry is in the midst of significant change. In fact, it is being virtually restructured and recapitalized. Our goal is to provide our clients with the full complement of investment banking and capital markets services that they will need to remain competitive."

Greg Dingens, Managing Director and Co-Head of Investment Banking for Monroe, added "Although the firm has had a nationwide presence for years through our market making and capital offerings business, we believe the new office is an important step in enhancing service to community banks and their investors on the West Coast. We think that banks and investors in the West will benefit from our being there."

Founded in 1968, Monroe Securities provides a full complement of investment banking and capital markets services to community banks and other financial services companies on the West Coast and throughout the United States, as well as to investors in those institutions. These services include capital offerings; merger and acquisition advisory services; valuations, appraisals and financial fairness opinions; and Monroe's traditional market making, sales and trading services for investors. In addition, Monroe's affiliate, Siena Capital Partners, is an investor in community banks.

The firm will continue to provide these services from its existing offices in Chicago, Tampa, Raleigh and Atlanta.

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