



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** R. Adam Smith  
Circle Peak Capital Management  
Phone: 646-230-8812  
info@circlepeakcapital.com  
[www.circlepeakcapital.com](http://www.circlepeakcapital.com)

## **CIRCLE PEAK CAPITAL EXPANDS EXECUTIVE TEAM**

### **Appointment of senior associate broadens buyout team expertise**

NEW YORK, NY – June 9, 2005 – Private equity firm Circle Peak Capital (“Circle Peak”) today announced the appointment of Holbrook M. Forusz as Senior Associate. The appointment of Mr. Forusz will further broaden Circle Peak’s buyout expertise in the small cap and middle market consumer sector.

Mr. Forusz was formerly with the middle-market private equity firm, the Walnut Group, and was also an executive with Provident Bank, a leading financial services and commercial banking organization. While with Provident Bank, Mr. Forusz worked on structured/corporate finance, on middle market mergers and acquisitions, underwriting a portfolio of over \$400 million in debt and equity financing, and worked with companies such as the Cincinnati Reds, Ohio Medical, Deaconess Healthcare, K&M Toys, Skyline Chili, Hooters, S&A Restaurants, General Tool, and Webster Packaging.

Prior to Provident, Mr. Forusz worked with the Walnut Group, located in New York, NY and Cincinnati, Ohio, focusing on private equity transactions in consumer products and business services. During his four years with Walnut, Mr. Forusz worked on transactions and/or portfolio companies such as Build-a-Bear, Deal\$ Dollar Stores, North American Baking, Big Sky Bread, Ameristop, SimonDelivers and Logo Athletic. Mr. Forusz also participated in a successful raise for a \$135 million fund for the firm.



Mr. Forusz earned an MBA from The University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business with degrees in Finance, Accounting and Strategy and received his BA degree in Finance and International Business from the University of Cincinnati, graduating Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian. Mr. Forusz's also attended the University of Nagoya, one of Japan's leading business schools. Mr. Forusz lives and works in New York City.

Circle Peak's Managing Partner, R. Adam Smith, said, "We are delighted to have Holbrook join our team. His experience in consumer-oriented private equity, combined with middle-market lending, is a unique and excellent complement to our growing organization."

### **Circle Peak Capital Management LLC**

Circle Peak is a private equity investment firm based in New York City that invests in privately held companies in packaged food and beverages, health beauty, select luxury/retail/apparel goods, household products, and sporting goods/fitness. Circle Peak also maintains an interest in the financial services sector, with an emphasis on private investment management firms. Since Circle Peak's official launch Labor Day 2003, the firm has closed two control-stake investments in the food and beverage categories, and targets the completion two additional investments in calendar year 2005. Circle Peak invests in companies with between \$10 million and \$200 million in sales with aggregate equity commitments of between \$5 million and \$100 million. Circle Peak seeks to provide, or partner with, proven management teams to build profitable, sustainable businesses and to realize strong returns on capital for its principals, management teams and investors. For more information, please go to [www.circlepeakcapital.com](http://www.circlepeakcapital.com).