

**COLLINS STEWART EXPANDS BREADTH OF U.S. BANKS RESEARCH WITH NEW HIRE**  
***Todd Hagerman Joins Firm as Managing Director, Regional Banks***

**New York, NY – June 18, 2009** – Collins Stewart, a leading independent financial advisory group, today announced it has hired Todd Hagerman as Managing Director, Regional Banks to manage equity research in this sector as a Senior Analyst. Hagerman will work with William Tanona, who recently joined Collins Stewart in June as Managing Director and Senior Analyst, to head the firm's newly formed U.S. Banks team. Hagerman will be based in New York.

"Todd exemplifies the high caliber of talent we look for in the marketplace as Collins Stewart continues to build its equity research line-up in key market sectors," said John Abularrage, Chief Executive Officer of Collins Stewart's North American operations. "We welcome Todd and his knowledge of the U.S. regional banking sector to our insightful and independent research team."

Before joining Collins Stewart, Hagerman was Head of U.S. Regional Bank Equity Research at Credit Suisse Securities where he formulated and directed overall equity strategy and research coverage for the U.S. regional banking sector. Prior to working at Credit Suisse Securities, Hagerman was Senior Vice President, Equity Research, Financial Institutions at Fox-Pitt, Kelton. Before that, Hagerman was a Portfolio Manager at The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. He started his career at The Federal Reserve Bank of New York as Domestic Bank Examiner.

"We're very pleased to bring Todd on board as we further build out Collins Stewart's newly added U.S. Banks research capabilities and expand our coverage universe in this important sector," said Bill Tanona, Managing Director and Senior Research Analyst, U.S. Banks Team. "Todd's expertise in U.S. regional bank coverage will not only add value to our research products, but will also help us to retain and attract and new business in this highly competitive market."

Hagerman holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from The University of Arizona and received his Master of Business Administration from Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California.

Collins Stewart's equity research includes: U.S. Banks, U.S. and Canadian Oil & Gas, Technology, Healthcare, Defense & Electronics/Communications and Energy.

- Ends -

For further information please contact:

***In the United States:***

***W.T. Blase & Associates, Inc. 212-221-1079***  
*Bill Blase, Cathy Loos or Stephanie Kuffner*

***In the UK:***

***Collins Stewart***

*Charlotte Kirkham*  
*M Communications*

+44 (0)7989 528 421

**Collins Stewart plc** is a leading independent financial advisory group listed on the London Stock Exchange. Collins Stewart plc employs 700 staff in 10 international locations and is organised around four operational divisions: Advisory, Corporate Broking, Securities and Wealth Management, all served by its unique research tool, Quest™. More information at [www.collinsstewart.com](http://www.collinsstewart.com)

*The above description of Collins Stewart plc is communicated by Collins Stewart Europe Limited, a company authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Services Authority ("FSA") (with firm reference number: 182011). The FSA's principal place of business is at 25 The North Colonnade, London, E14 5HS.*