



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **MILESTONE ADVISORS LLC NAMES JEFFREY M. LEVINE AS A PRINCIPAL OF FIRM**

**Washington, DC - February 8, 2006** - Milestone Advisors LLC, an investment banking firm specializing in the financial services industry, announced today that Jeffrey M. Levine, has joined the partners of the firm as a Principal.

"Jeff has contributed immensely to the success of our firm and we are thrilled to welcome him to our partnership," said Gene Weil, Chief Executive Officer at Milestone. "Jeff's appointment is evidence of his commitment to our clients. His efforts over the past four years have been a major contributor to our ranking as #1 M&A advisor in the specialty finance industry."

Mr. Levine, who opened and operates Milestone's Miami, Florida office, has been a Managing Director with Milestone since 2002. "Jeff has built upon an extensive track record of successfully advising clients in the banking and mortgage banking industry," said John Nelligan, Managing Director and Principal of Milestone. "His proven experience in advising financial services firms across the board and his deep relationships in the industry have greatly accelerated our firm's efforts."

Prior to joining Milestone, Mr. Levine was a Managing Director of Bayview Financial Advisory Services, a boutique investment banking firm specializing in the mortgage banking industry. Bayview Financial Advisory Services' M&A practice was acquired by Milestone in 2002.

Mr. Levine has completed over 50 mortgage banking corporate transactions in the course of his career for a long list of clients including, Royal Bank of Canada, Washington Mutual, Chase Manhattan, Wells Fargo, ABN Amro, Lennar Homes, and Independent Community Bancorp.

"We have a great team at Milestone and I am delighted to be a part of it," said Mr. Levine. "I look forward to enhancing our client relationships and expanding our firm's efforts in 2006 and beyond."

#### **About Milestone Advisors LLC**

Milestone Advisors, LLC is a Washington, DC-based investment bank that provides merger and acquisition advisory and corporate finance services to financial services companies, including commercial, consumer, and mortgage finance companies; banks and thrifts; and insurance companies. Milestone's principals have completed over 220 M&A and corporate finance transactions. Milestone was ranked the #1 M&A advisor to the specialty finance industry for the second consecutive year based on number of transactions. (Source: SNL Financial, LC - 2004 and 2005 Rankings.)

