



**COHEN & COMPANY APPOINTS JOHN MCWILLIAMS MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
HEAD OF ASSET FINANCE AND SPECIALTY FINANCE**

**- Continues Ongoing Robust Expansion of Fixed Income Capital Markets Platform -**

**Philadelphia, PA and New York, NY – March 10, 2009** – Cohen & Company, an investment firm specializing in credit related fixed income investments, today announced the hiring of John McWilliams as Managing Director and Head of Asset Finance and Specialty Finance with Cohen & Company Securities, LLC, the company's institutional broker-dealer focused on debt securities.

Mr. McWilliams' appointment, which is effective immediately, is part of an ongoing, phased expansion of Cohen & Company's Fixed Income Capital Markets business, which has included the recruitment of multiple senior-level executives in the fixed-income space with expertise in corporate debt, mortgage securities and asset-backed securities. In his new role, Mr. McWilliams will be based out of Cohen & Company's New York offices and report directly to Christopher Ricciardi, the company's Chief Executive Officer.

Previously, Mr. McWilliams was a Managing Director and Co-Head of Asset Finance at Credit Suisse with responsibility for all U.S. asset-backed primary issuance. Prior to that, he managed the consumer asset finance group at Credit Suisse responsible for auto, equipment, credit card and student loan areas. While at Credit Suisse, Mr. McWilliams also gained extensive experience covering financial institutions for general capital raising and advisory activities as a Managing Director in Credit Suisse's Financial Institutions Group. His focus was on companies in the Specialty Finance Group. Most recently, Mr. McWilliams served as Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of Park Motor Finance, Ltd, a UK-based automobile finance company.

Christopher Ricciardi, Cohen & Company's Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are very pleased to welcome John to our Capital Markets platform, which continues to enjoy robust expansion. John is an industry veteran who brings a wealth of experience in assisting financial institutions with their debt and securitization issuance needs. His considerable experience in capital-raising for financial institutions is matched only by his expertise on consumer loan securitization, an area in which he is a recognized authority.

"We believe this is an opportune time to bring John on board, as government-sponsored financing alternatives for financial institutions continues to increase, and as there is a growing realization that securitization and other forms of financing in the consumer loan industry are vital to a properly functioning modern economy. We fully expect John to lead our effort to be an active participant in these important markets, as we continue to identify and execute on opportunities for profitable growth."

**About Cohen & Company**

Cohen & Company is an investment firm specializing in credit related fixed income investments. Through Cohen & Company Securities, LLC, the company also provides institutional broker-dealer services focused on debt securities. With offices in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles,

Washington DC, Paris, London and Tokyo, Cohen & Company serves a diverse international network of institutional and individual clients. For more information about Cohen & Company, we encourage you to visit [www.cohenandcompany.com](http://www.cohenandcompany.com).

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