



capstan fund
opportunity meets expertise

For Immediate Release

Nashville, TN * June 24th, 2011 * 8:00 am Central

Steve Curnutte announced the launch of a new Distressed Opportunities fund called Capstan Fund.

This morning, Nashville area entrepreneur Steve Curnutte announced the launch of a Distressed Opportunities Fund, Capstan, LLC - dba Capstan Fund. Capstan will serve as the sister organization to Curnutte's restructuring advisory firm Tortola Partners, LLC. The fund will focus on buying claims and notes from distressed circumstances, providing DIP financing to operating companies in Chapter 11, and direct equity or debt investments into distressed circumstances. Investment sizes may range from \$250,000 - \$5,000,000.

"Finding elements of value in distressed circumstances is 1/3rd of the puzzle. Another 1/3rd is knowing how to extract them cleanly and help them to prosper. Tortola has done a solid job of the first 2 puzzle pieces since early 2009. The final piece is having the capital to move decisively – that is where Capstan comes in," Curnutte said.

Capstan Fund hopes to make its first investment within a few weeks and is currently evaluating a Middle Tennessee retail operation. *"Markets always reward expertise, but in matters of insolvency or distress it is especially true. It is a tough market, but we feel good about our skill set and the magnitude of opportunity."*

According to Curnutte, *"over the past 20 years, a struggling company could look for salvation in a stronger competitor with growth aspirations, or look for to recapitalized by a bank with an appetite for price adjusted risk taking. But the depth and length of the downturn have left many businesses short on expertise to manage crisis and short on options for fresh capital."*

"A 'distressed circumstance' usually means 'depressed pricing', but it should not always be mistaken as a 'good deal,'" said Steve Curnutte. *"Our focus will be on assets we know a lot about, on mechanisms to remain well protected, and on companies who have a lot to offer."*

The goal of Capstan is not to fill a void left by overregulated and undercapitalized banks. According to Curnutte, it is as simple and as fundamental as *"connecting opportunity with expertise."*

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