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Annual Closed-End Fund and ETF Awards 2006 Winners

NEW YORK, NY -- (MARKET WIRE) -- 04/26/2006 -- The Annual Closed-End Fund & ETF Awards, an initiative of Capital Link, a New York based investor relations and financial communications firm, aim to identify and recognize annually those fund sponsors and executives who consistently apply high standards of financial disclosure, investor and shareholder relations.

Nicolas Bornozis, President of Capital Link, mentioned that the Awards are based on nominations by a committee of analysts and industry specialists who actively follow CEFs and ETFs. Capital Link is not part of the Nominating Committee. Also, members of the Nominating Committee cannot be candidates for the Awards. The Awards are presented within the context of the Annual Forum on Closed-End Funds & Global ETFs.

Mrs. Lucille M. Conklin, Managing Director, Bear Wagner Specialists LLC, a leading NYSE trading firm, made introductory remarks outlining the procedure and noting the importance of these Awards for the industry.

The Nominating Committee in 2006 is composed of Herb Blank, President, QED International, Mariana Bush, Closed-End Funds & Exchange-Traded Funds Analyst, Wachovia Securities, Don Cassidy, Senior Research Analyst, Lipper - A Reuters Company, John Cejka, Closed-End Fund Analyst, A.G. Edwards, Dennis Emanuel, Managing Director, Closed-End Fund & ETF Research, Citigroup Investment Research, Susan P. Gulshan, PIA MLAP Specialist - Vice President, Merrill Lynch, Amy Hawkins, Director Closed-End Fund Research, Raymond James & Associates, Jon Maier, Director, Closed-End Funds and Business, Development Companies, UBS Investment Research, Paul Mazzilli, Executive Director ETF Research, Morgan Stanley, Jed McKnight, Head of Research, North America, Lipper - A Reuters Company, Victor E. Quagliero, Vice President, Senior Product Strategist, RBC Dain Rauscher, Alex Reiss, Senior Closed-End Fund Analyst, Ryan Beck & Co., Frank Sileo, Citigroup Investment Research, Closed-End Fund / ETF Research and Jeff Tjornehoj, Senior Research Analyst, Lipper - A Reuters Company.

The Best Shareholder Relations Awards are presented to the Fund Sponsor who practices best financial disclosure and is proactive in investor and shareholder communications. Among the criteria used were the quality and regularity of financial disclosure by the Fund sponsor. Also their pro-activeness in terms of communication with the investment public through frequent presentations, conference calls, webcasts, conferences, product literature, etc. Finally, having a website which provides in depth information and is user friendly.

The Awards For Contribution to the Closed-End Fund and ETF sectors are presented to individuals for their contribution during the last year to the Closed-End Fund and ETF sectors respectively. Members of the Nominating Committee cannot

be candidates for these Awards.

The Most Innovative New Product Awards are presented to the Fund Sponsor who came up with the most innovative product in CEFs and ETFs.

The Winners were the following:

CLOSED-END FUND AWARDS

The Most Innovative New Closed-End Fund in 2005 Award was presented to the BlackRock Enhanced Dividend Achievers Trust (NYSE: [BDJ](#)) by Mr. Alex Reiss, Senior Closed-End Fund Analyst, Ryan Beck & Co.

Highlighted Links

[http://www.
capitallink.com](http://www.capitallink.com)

Mr. Kyle McClements, Director, Head of BlackRock's Equity Derivatives Group accepted the award jointly with Mr. Ed Mallon, Director, Closed-End Fund Product Development at BlackRock. Both stated, "On behalf BlackRock and our closed-end fund enterprise, our strategic partners and investors, we are thrilled to accept this award and are extremely appreciative of the recognition bestowed upon us by the industry."

Honorable Mentions for this Award went to Eaton Vance Tax Managed Buy-Write Fund and Macquarie Global Infrastructure Total Return Fund.

The Best Shareholder Relations Award by a non-US Equity Closed-End Fund Family in 2005 was presented to ING Investment Management by Ms. Mariana Bush, Closed-End Funds & Exchange-Traded Funds Analyst, Wachovia Securities.

Mr. Mark Weber, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of ING Investment Management who accepted the award stated that "ING Investment Management is honored to be the recipient of this important award recognizing shareholder relations for the closed end funds we manage. It acknowledges our commitment to serving shareholders and analysts in the closed end fund marketplace. We believe communications and proactive investor relations are key to the long term performance of our funds."

Honorable Mentions for this Award went to the Germany Funds and Deutsche Asset Management and to the Asia Pacific Fund.

The Best Shareholder Relations Award by a US Equity Fund Family in 2005 was presented to Eaton Vance Management by Mr. Jon Maier, Director Closed-End Funds and Business Development Companies, UBS Investment Research.

Mr. Jonathan Isaac, Vice President, Closed-End Funds of Eaton Vance Management who accepted the Award stated that "Eaton Vance views support of closed-end funds in the secondary market as a crucial responsibility for any fund sponsor and to be recognized with this award is a great confirmation that we are meeting that obligation."

Honorable Mentions for this Award went to Nuveen Investments and Cohen and Steers.

The Best Shareholder Relations Award by a Fixed Income Fund Family in 2005 was presented to Nuveen Investments by Mr. Dennis Emanuel, Managing Director, Closed-End Fund & ETF Research, Citigroup Investment Research.

Mrs. Anne Kritzmire, Managing Director, Closed-End Funds, Nuveen Investments who accepted the Award stated that "We are pleased to receive this recognition of our long-held commitment to serve the interests of investors and their financial advisors by providing an extensive program of regular communications about our 114 taxable and tax-free exchange-traded closed-end funds. With so many investors seeking reliable sources of income as part of their long-term investment portfolios, we feel it's more important than ever to maintain a high level of communication, education, and support regarding our CEFs and their income-producing benefits."

Honorable Mentions for this Award went to BlackRock and Mercury Advisors a Division of Merrill Lynch Investment Managers

The Award For Contribution to the Closed-End Fund sector was presented to Mr. Kenneth Fincher, Vice President of Nuveen Investments by Mr. William O'Brien, Senior Vice President, NASDAQ Corporate Client Group.

Mr. Kenneth Fincher stated that "It's an honor to receive this award and the positive feedback it represents from colleagues in the industry. On behalf of everyone at Nuveen Investments and other firms engaged in the production, distribution and support of closed-end funds, thank you for the recognition and let's continue to do all we can to increase investor awareness and understanding of an income-generating product category that truly deserves more attention."

ETF AWARDS

The Most Innovative New ETF Product in 2005 Award was presented to Mr. Ed McRedmond, Senior Vice President, PowerShares for the PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (AMEX: [PBW](#)) by Mr. Tom Rzepski, Vice President, ETF Market Place, American Stock Exchange.

Mr. McRedmond who accepted the Award stated, "I want to thank the nominating committee for their recognition, I consider it a privilege to accept this Capital Link award on behalf of the PowerShares team and our good friend and partner Rob Wilder, the creator of the of the WilderHill Clean Energy index."

Honorable Mention for this Award went to Rydex Eurocurrency Trust.

The Best Shareholder Relations Award in 2005 was presented to iShares managed by Barclays Global Investors by Mr. Paul Mazzilli, Executive Director ETF Research, Morgan Stanley.

Mr. Mark Carver, Business Development Officer, iShares - Barclays Global Investors Services who accepted the Award stated that "It is an honor to receive this award for a third consecutive year. A core business objective is to be a resource to shareholders through our call center, sales support, web site with portfolio tools, and ongoing educational programs, and we are delighted to be recognized for our efforts."

Honorable Mentions for this Award went to PowerShares and State Street

The Award For Contribution to the ETF sector in 2005 was presented to Mr. Bruce Bond, President, PowerShares by Mr. Victor E. Quagliero, Vice President, Senior Product Strategist, RBC Dain Rauscher.

Accepting the Award, Mr. Bond stated, "I want to thank everyone on the committee for considering me for this important award and I want to thank the industry in general for its encouragement and support. I consider it an honor to have the opportunity to use my time and talents to contribute to the ever evolving and exciting world of exchange-traded funds. I want to thank Capital Link for this event and for all of the support and visibility they create for the industry."

2006 CLOSED-END FUND AWARDS

The Most Innovative New Closed-End Fund Product in 2005

BlackRock Enhanced Dividend Achievers Trust (NYSE: [BDJ](#))

Best Shareholder Relations by a non-US Equity Closed-End Fund Family in 2005

ING Investment Management

Best Shareholder Relations by a US Equity Closed-End Fund Family in 2005

Eaton Vance Management

Best Shareholder Relations by a Fixed Income Closed-End Fund Family in 2005

Nuveen Investments

For Contribution to the Closed-End Fund sector in 2005

Mr. Kenneth Fincher, Vice President, Nuveen Investments

2006 ETF AWARDS

Most Innovative New ETF Product in 2005

PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (AMEX: [PBW](#))

Best Shareholder Relations in ETFs in 2005

iShares managed by Barclays Global Investors

For Contribution to the ETF sector in 2005

Mr. Bruce Bond, President, PowerShares

All Award materials are available on the websites of Capital Link

www.capitallink.com

www.cefawards.com and www.etfawards.com.

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