



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUNBELT CAPITAL SOLUTIONS FOCUSES ON
OPPORTUNITIES IN DISTRESSED ASSETS IN THE SOUTHEAST**
New Firm Adds Value By Turning Around Underperforming Property and Loans

ATLANTA, April 29, 2010 – A group of highly experienced real estate developers and partners in the Southeast today announced the formation of SunBelt Capital Solutions, a firm focused on acquiring or adding value to distressed real estate loans and property held by building owners, financial institutions, or institutional investors.

SunBelt Capital Solutions is lead by CEO Steve Drown, Chief Operating Officer Aristide LeFevre Jr., and Chief Investment Officer Mark Boutwell. Collectively, the principals of SunBelt Capital Solutions have built, financed or sold commercial and residential [real estate projects](#) totaling more than \$250 million from Texas to Florida. The firm's five-member Advisory Board is comprised of business, political and academic leaders in the Southeast.

“The downturn in the real estate markets has resulted in an historic opportunity to create value for investors, owners, and communities by turning around distressed real estate and loans,” said [CEO Steve Drown](#). “SunBelt Capital Solutions has the experience, resources and established network to improve distressed assets and allow capital to start working effectively again.”

The firm operates two lines of business: An [acquisitions](#) group that purchases underperforming properties and loans, and a financial [services](#) group that helps banks, financial institutions and property owners reduce exposure to distressed real estate. The financial services group purchases loans and properties from banks, and also offers construction, architectural and finance expertise to help manage properties back to profitability, complete unfinished projects or prepare assets for sale.

A Team With Extensive Experience

The management team and Advisory Board of SunBelt Capital Solutions have experience in all aspects of commercial and residential real estate development, including the following:

- Steve Drown has more than 30 years of experience as a commercial and residential real estate developer and in debt financing. Drown is a Managing Partner of The Poole Street Group LLC, in Gulfport, Mississippi, and Seashore Partners, and is a partner in SECON, LLC, (South Eastern General Contractors). His companies have been involved in real estate developments on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the Florida Panhandle, including Tranquility on the Beach Condominiums, Tranquil Shores, Emerald Surf Villas, Seacrest Villas and Buena Vista, all located in the Seagrove Beach area of Florida.
- Aristide "Arry" Francis LeFevre, Jr., is an attorney and commercial and residential real estate investor with more than 35 years of project development. LeFevre helped develop and manage Wind Drift Beach Resort in Panama City, Florida, Mainsail Condominiums in Destin, Florida and Edgewater Bay in Biloxi. He also developed Rivers Bend in Gulfport, Shadowlawn in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and was an early member of the group that acquired and renovated the Lafayette Hotel in New Orleans. His other projects include an office building on Natchez Alley in

New Orleans, Shagbark Mountain Development in Pidgeon Forge, Tennessee, Condominiums at Imperial Gardens in Naples, Florida, and SummerWalk Village in Gulfport.

- Mark Boutwell has more than 18 years of financial services experience. Prior to joining the firm, Boutwell served as Managing Director of PDK Capital Advisors, where he sourced and underwrote more than \$500 million of investment opportunities. Prior to PDK Capital, he was a Partner with L-D Partners, LLC, which developed a 166-unit high-rise condominium project in Panama City, Florida. Earlier in his career, Boutwell worked for Legg Mason Wood Walker as an Asset Manager.

The firm's Advisory Board includes:

- Wayne Boutwell is Chairman Emeritus of SunBelt Capital Solutions' Advisory Board. Boutwell is a distinguished economist with more than 30 years of academic and business experience. During his career, Boutwell was an economist for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., served as a senior aide to Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), was President and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in Washington D.C, and served as President and CEO of Southern States Cooperatives, Inc.
- Steve Duvernay has more than 35 years of experience as a financial and banking consultant to real estate developers. He has been active in identifying market opportunities, feasibility studies, site acquisition, governmental approvals, wetlands permitting and financing.
- Hon. James C. Simpson, Jr., Esquire has more than 30 years of experience as a practicing attorney and served as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives for 13 years. Simpson retired from the House in 2007 to return to practice law and is currently a Partner in the Montgomery Barnett Law Firm in New Orleans.
- Bill Lack is one of Mississippi's most respected architects, with 40 years of professional experience. After going into private practice in 1974, Lack has been associated with several firms as senior principal and Architect of Record for numerous projects throughout the U.S.
- Scott Drown has more than 23 years of experience in residential and commercial real estate development. Drown is CEO of Scott Drown Contracting of Gulfport, Mississippi, which builds single-family homes, subdivisions and commercial buildings. Drown is also a Managing Partner in Brookfield Builders LLC, in Ocean Spring and is a partner in SECON, LLC, (South Eastern General Contractors).

“SunBelt Capital Solutions has assembled a team with unmatched understanding of the real estate markets in the Southeast,” Drown said. “We’re looking forward to working with property owners, institutional investors and banks to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities that exist in the marketplace today.”

About SunBelt Capital Solutions

SunBelt Capital Solutions specializes in turning around distressed loans and real property in the Southeast. SunBelt Capital Solutions acquires distressed loans and real property, and works with financial institutions to reduce exposure to underperforming loans and real estate by providing construction, architectural and financial expertise. SunBelt Capital Solutions is a Limited Liability Corporation based in Atlanta, with offices on Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more information, visit www.SunBeltcapitalsolutions.com, 404.474.9000.

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