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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIEBERT BRANDFORD SHANK & CO., LLC NAMES CAROLE BROWN SENIOR
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., LLC is pleased to announce that Carole L. Brown will join the firm as Senior Managing Director heading its Chicago office. Ms. Brown will be directing the firm's municipal practice in a broad territory that includes certain key markets for the Firm in the Midwest and East coast. Ms. Brown will be reporting to Suzanne Shank, President and CEO of the firm. Ms. Shank commented, "We are extremely excited about Carole joining our firm. Carole represents the quintessential investment banker – she has both extraordinary technical capabilities and strong relationships nationally." Ms. Brown will be joining Elizabeth Coolidge, Managing Director, in the Chicago office along with other bankers. Ms. Coolidge commented, "I am excited about working with Carole again after the productive 8 years we worked alongside one another at Lehman Brothers."

Ms. Brown, a twenty-year veteran of the municipal bond business, started her career at First Chicago in 1989. Most recently, Ms. Brown served as Senior Managing Director and Head of Public Finance for Mesirow Financial, after a ten year career at Lehman Brothers/Barclays Capital where she headed its Midwest Municipal Finance practice and served as senior investment banker for central region municipal clients including the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana and national markets including the District of Columbia and U.S Virgin Islands.

"I was impressed by the firm's substantial growth in recent years, strong track record of senior managing large transactions and commitment to public finance as its core business," said Carole Brown. "I have also known both Napoleon and Suzanne and many of the firm's bankers for many years. Siebert has an incredibly talented team of bankers, salesmen and traders and I look forward to working with them."

Napoleon Brandford, III, Chairman of Siebert Brandford Shank stated that "Carole Brown's private and public sector experience is unequalled in the current marketplace.

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We believe that her national reach will significantly enhance our opportunity to be a permanent fixture in the top 10 senior manager ranking category.”

Ms. Brown is active in numerous civic and charitable endeavors, serving as Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority Board, a Commissioner for the Chicago Plan Commission, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Children’s Museum, The Chicago Network, Chicago High School for the Arts, and Illinois Council Against Hand Gun Violence among others.

Siebert Brandford Shank & Co. LLC is a national underwriter of municipal bonds with offices in 18 cities, including Chicago. The firm currently ranks in the top 10 of negotiated senior managers year to date in 2009, senior managing \$2.5 billion in transactions and 4th for negotiated co-managers, participating in over \$45 billion in financings year to date. The firm also ranks 5th for negotiated senior managers of transportation bonds year to date. In 2008, the firm ranked 14th nationally for senior managed negotiated underwritings with deals totaling over 5.3billion and long term deals totaling 4.5billion. Siebert Brandford Shank & Co. LLC has been the top ranked MWBE firm since 1998. In Illinois, the firm ranked 14th year to date as senior managers and 3rd year to date as co-managers.

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