



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Contacts:

For Highland Capital Management
Thomas Clohesy
212/792-5673

thomas.clohesy@tmccommunications.com

For Columbia Management Advisors
Charles G. Salmans
212/893-7280

Charles.Salmans@columbiamanagement.com

**Highland Capital Management, L.P. to acquire Bank Loan Asset Management Business
of Columbia Management Advisors, Inc.**

- Assets Under Management To Grow 34%**
- Transaction Accesses New Investor Channel**

Dallas, TX, (April 14, 2004) – Highland Capital Management, L.P. (Highland) announced today that it has reached an agreement to acquire the Bank Loan Asset Management business (“BLAM”) of Columbia Management Advisors, Inc. (Columbia). Columbia is an asset management subsidiary of Bank of America Corp. (NYSE: BAC). Columbia’s Board of Trustees has approved Highland to be advisor for BLAM’s floating rate mutual funds under interim agreements, pending shareholder approval of long term contracts. Terms were not disclosed.

With over \$2.7 billion in assets under management, BLAM is a leading investment manager of leveraged loans via both mutual fund and collateralized loan obligations (CLOs). Columbia is the investment advisor for the Columbia Floating Rate Fund (Ticker: XLFAX), and the Columbia Floating Rate Advantage Fund (Ticker: XSFRX), closed-end interval funds that Morningstar, Inc. rates as four- and five-star funds, respectively. First established in 1998,

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Columbia's floating rate mutual funds have a long-term track record of strong performance and have experienced excellent sales growth.

Highland Capital Management, L.P. is a registered investment advisor with approximately \$8 billion in assets under management. Highland is one of the original and largest managers of loans, with a broad range of investment formats that includes: CLOs, structured funds, separate accounts, hedge funds, as well as open and closed-end funds.

"This acquisition is a perfect growth complement to Highland's existing platform. It significantly advances our firm's retail business activities and provides additional scale to our existing leadership position in leveraged loans," said Jim Dondero, President. "This transaction makes Highland's industry leading performance in loans available to the public for the first time."

"We welcome a relationship with Columbia's investors and offer them the benefits of one of the market's largest platforms dedicated to credit investing," said Jack Yang, Head of Business Development. "We are committed to aligning our interests with those of our investors, and providing them the highest quality investment performance and services."

Cambridge International Partners Inc. acted as financial advisor to Highland on this transaction.

Founded in 1993, Highland Capital Management, L.P. is a privately held, registered investment advisor. The firm is a recognized leader in the specialized credit markets, with particular expertise in such products as leveraged loans, high yield bonds, mezzanine debt and special situation investing. Highland Capital has over 125 institutional investors worldwide. For additional information, please visit our website at www.hcmlp.com.