

News Release

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Wilmington Trust to Acquire AST Capital Trust Company *Deal expands Corporate Retirement Services' market presence, capabilities*

Wilmington, DE, January 31, 2008 – Wilmington Trust Corporation (NYSE: WL) announced that Wilmington Trust FSB has signed a definitive agreement to acquire AST Capital Trust Company, a provider of directed trustee, trust administration, and back-office services offered through financial advisors to retirement plans, high-net-worth individuals and families, and institutional investors.

AST Capital Trust Company, which has offices in Phoenix, Arizona and Wilmington, Delaware, is being acquired from individuals who also own New York-based American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. It will become part of the Corporate Retirement Services group within Wilmington Trust's Corporate Client Services (CCS) business. The transaction nearly doubles the amount of retirement plan assets Wilmington Trust administers and approximately doubles the number of plans the company serves, to \$41 billion and 3,000, respectively. AST Capital Trust Company's president, Gregory W. Tschider, will join Wilmington Trust to lead the combined organization's retirement services business. He will report to Bill Farrell, executive vice president of Wilmington Trust and head of CCS.

"The acquisition of AST Capital Trust Company enhances our presence and service capabilities in the market for retirement plan services," said Ted T. Cecala, Wilmington Trust chairman and CEO. "This union gives us an opportunity to grow our retirement plan services business more quickly than it might grow otherwise, and it further diversifies our sources of revenue."

As of June 30, 2007, total U.S. retirement assets reached \$17.4 trillion. At that date, assets in employer-based defined contribution plans such as 401(k), 403(b), and 457 plans, totaled \$4.4 trillion; assets in private defined benefit plans such as pension plans totaled \$2.4 trillion; and assets in federal, state, and local government pension plans totaled \$4.4 trillion. The remaining \$6.2 trillion of U.S. retirement assets were held in Individual Retirement Accounts and annuities.¹

AST Capital Trust Company administers a total of more than \$28 billion in trust assets and has 170 staff members. Its assets under administration include more than \$19 billion in 1,500 retirement plans. More than \$2 billion of this figure is in collective investment funds, which are emerging as an investment alternative for retirement plan assets due to their relatively low operating expenses and operational flexibility. AST Capital Trust Company also administers \$7 billion in institutional assets and nearly \$2 billion in personal trust assets. The retirement plan and institutional assets are administered in the Phoenix office; the personal trust assets are administered in the Wilmington office.

“AST Capital Trust Company occupies a distinctive space in the retirement services industry as an independent service provider with an experienced staff and outstanding technology,” said Mr. Farrell. “Bringing our two organizations together will help us deliver on our pledge to provide unmatched service to our clients and alliance partners in the corporate retirement services community.”

Wilmington Trust has a long history in the retirement services business, with more than six decades of experience servicing corporate retirement plans. The company provides directed trustee, custodial, trading, and paying agent services for more than 1,500 retirement plans and employee benefit plans, representing assets of approximately \$22 billion. Its Corporate Retirement Services group is an integral part of Wilmington Trust’s CCS business, which is a leading provider of specialized trust and administrative services for national and multinational institutions. Wilmington Trust does not participate in securities or insurance underwriting, large-scale corporate financing, certain advisory activities, or retirement-plan record keeping, which allows it to provide conflict-free services that many corporate clients and their advisors require or prefer.

“Wilmington Trust and AST Capital Trust Company share a belief in the importance of building long-lasting relationships and serving our clients’ needs with utmost care,” said Mr. Tschider. “Coming together enhances our combined organization’s competitive position by leveraging the capabilities of AST Capital Trust Company with the brand recognition, experience, and expertise of Wilmington Trust.”

Pending regulatory approval, Wilmington Trust expects to complete this transaction by this summer. After a period of transition, AST Capital Trust Company will take the Wilmington Trust name.

Wilmington Trust expects this transaction will add approximately \$27 million of revenue and be non-dilutive to earnings in 2008. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

This release contains certain forward-looking statements that reflect Wilmington Trust's current expectations. These statements rely on assumptions and estimates and are subject to risks and uncertainties, including the effect of potential changes in market interest rates and the effect of integrating acquired entities.

Wilmington Trust Corporation (NYSE: WL) is a financial services holding company that provides Regional Banking services throughout the mid-Atlantic region, Wealth Advisory Services for high-net-worth clients in 36 countries, and Corporate Client Services for institutional clients in 86 countries. Its wholly owned bank subsidiary, Wilmington Trust Company, which was founded in 1903, is one of the largest personal trust providers in the United States and the leading retail and commercial bank in Delaware. Wilmington Trust Corporation and its affiliates have offices in California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, the Cayman Islands, the Channel Islands, London, Dublin, Frankfurt, and Luxembourg.

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¹Sources of data in this paragraph include Investment Company Institute, Federal Reserve Board, National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators, American Council of Life Insurers, and Internal Revenue Service Statistics of Income Division. The figures were published in the Investment Company Institute's *Executive Update*, Vol. 4, No. 26, dated December 31, 2007.