

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HOWARD FIFE JOINS WESTPORT CAPITAL PARTNERS LLC AS PRINCIPAL**

Westport, CT, August 7, 2006 – Westport Capital Partners LLC, a real estate investment firm specializing in the opportunistic real estate arena, announced today that veteran Wall Street executive Howard B. Fife has joined the firm’s Westport office as a Principal and head trader. Westport Capital Partners provides domestic and international investment opportunities to institutional and private clients.

“We are continuing to grow a first rate team and are pleased to bring Howard on board as his experience in the high yield and distressed classes will help round out the firm’s expertise in those areas,” said Westport Capital founder, Russel S. Bernard.

Mr. Fife, 47, comes to Westport from the High Yield and Distressed Group of Jefferies and Company, where he worked with a number of large hedge funds. Prior to joining Jefferies in 2002, he was a Director at Lazard, Freres and Co. in the International High Yield and Distressed trading department. In 2001, he helped launch Lazard’s successful Debt Recovery Fund. Earlier, he worked at both Prudential Securities and Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. Mr. Fife received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Brown University in 1981 and his MBA from the Stern School of Business of New York University in 1985.

**About Westport Capital**

Westport Capital Partners LLC provides domestic and international investment opportunities to institutional and private clients. Through its fund, WCP Real Estate Fund I, L.P., the firm intends to invest in a wide variety of properties, including office, retail, industrial, entertainment- and leisure-related properties, multi-family and single family housing, healthcare properties and hotels. The firm is headquartered in Westport, CT, with additional offices in Los Angeles, CA.

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