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Mark T. Leslie Joins William Blair Value Discovery Team

Chicago, July 28, 2005 – William Blair & Company today announced that Mark T. Leslie, CFA, has joined the firm as co-manager of the William Blair Value Discovery Team and separately managed small-cap value accounts. Mr. Leslie joins David S. Mitchell, CFA, who has been co-manager of Value Discovery since 1996.

A 15-year veteran of the investment industry, Mr. Leslie has a broad range of experience in the small- and mid-capitalization value equity portfolio management and buy-side research with US Bancorp Asset Management along with sell-side research experience at Dain Bosworth, Inc. (now RBC Capital Markets), prior to joining William Blair & Company.

“We are very excited to have such a high-caliber, team-driven individual co-managing our Small Cap Value products,” said Michelle R. Seitz, head of the Investment Management Division. “Mark’s skills are complementary to those of our existing team and co-manager David Mitchell, and we are confident that there will be great value for us and our clients. We look forward to his contributions.”

Mr. Leslie received his BS from the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire, Durham.

William Blair & Company, L.L.C. is a Chicago-based investment firm offering investment banking, asset management, equity research, institutional and private brokerage, and private capital to individual, institutional, and issuing clients. Since 1935, we have been committed to helping clients achieve their financial objectives. As an independent, employee-owned firm, our philosophy is to serve our clients' interests first and foremost. We place a high value on the enduring nature of our client relationships, the quality of our products and services, and the continuity and integrity of our people. William Blair & Company has offices in Chicago, Hartford, London, San Francisco, Tokyo, Vaduz, and Zurich. For more information, please visit www.williamblair.com

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