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STREET MOVES: Morgan Stanley Hires Financial Advisors

By Bret Philbin Dow Jones Newswires August 6, 2008

NEW YORK (Dow Jones)--Morgan Stanley's (MS) global wealth management group recruited financial advisors from Merrill Lynch & Co. (MER), Citigroup Inc.'s (C) Smith Barney unit, and Robert W. Baird & Co.

On Friday, Gregory Rose and Robert Twardos left Merrill Lynch and joined Morgan Stanley's Alpharetta, Ga., office. The two brokers together produced commissions and fees of \$1.9 million and managed prior assets of \$232 million. The team will report to Sterling Zerbe, branch manager.

A Morgan Stanley spokeswoman confirmed the addition of all of the advisors and their production and prior asset figures.

Before joining Morgan Stanley, Rose worked at Merrill Lynch for more than 14 years according to Financial Industry Regulatory Authority records. Twardos spent over 10 years at the firm, FINRA records show.

Merrill Lynch couldn't immediately be reached for comment on the brokers' departure from the firm.

Morgan Stanley also hired Jeffrey J. McDonald from Smith Barney to work in its East Lake, Fla. office. McDonald produced commissions and fees of \$1.8 million and managed prior assets of over \$185 million. He will report to Terry McCoy, complex manager.

A Smith Barney spokeswoman confirmed that McDonald had left the firm. He previously worked at Citigroup for 15 years, regulatory records show.

In addition, Morgan Stanley hired John Wachs from Robert W. Baird to work in the firm's Wauwatosa, Wis., office. Wachs generated about \$1.2 million in commissions and fees and managed prior assets of \$225 million. He will report to Robert D. Frank, complex manager.

A Robert W. Baird spokeswoman confirmed Wachs' departure from the firm, but couldn't confirm his production or prior asset figures.

Wachs previously worked at Robert W. Baird for 27 years, according to FINRA records.

(STREET MOVES chronicles the migration of executives on Wall Street, with a particular emphasis on financial advisors with more than \$1 million in annual production and who manage more than \$100 million in client assets.)