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Contact:

Kim Shea

First Star Capital

Ph: 925-256-7200

Fax: 925-262-8244

[kim@firststarcapital.com](mailto:kim@firststarcapital.com)

[www.firststarcapital.com](http://www.firststarcapital.com)

### **Walnut Creek is home to newest Certified Lease Professional**

Walnut Creek, CA, 11/29/07: The CLP Foundation has announced Brad Harmon, President of First Star Capital in Walnut Creek, as the newest Certified Lease Professional (CLP). This designation is the premier certification in the equipment leasing industry. The CLP designation is recognized and respected throughout the industry as a whole and is held in high esteem by the primary industry associations such as the NAELB, UAEL, and ELFA.

To put it in perspective, the equipment lease and finance industry accounts for nearly \$250 billion in annual capital equipment expenditure - almost a third of all commercial equipment investment. Eight out of 10 U.S. companies lease and finance all or some of their equipment. There are roughly 4,000 – 5,000 leasing firms in the U.S but there are only less than 250 CLP's.

The CLP title is only given to those individuals that have demonstrated success in the leasing industry for a minimum of five years and have completed a thorough training program covering 16 subjects and have passed the most rigid test in the industry.

According to Harmon, "Becoming a CLP is a great accomplishment for me personally. It also presents new opportunities for First Star Capital. It is another step in the right direction for a growing firm. I am excited about our prospects for the future and look forward to becoming more involved in the leasing associations in the years to come."

First Star Capital has quickly established itself as a dependable and reputable equipment financing firm in the Bay Area. Established by Brad Harmon in March '05, the company has surpassed some impressive milestones in less than three years. 2007 represents the second full calendar year in business and First Star is already funding more volume than similar companies that have been around for 10 – 15 years. Furthermore, they have been recognized by the Better Business Bureau as an Honor Roll Member. First Star offers equipment financing for small to medium-sized businesses nationwide and its clients include publicly traded companies with thousands of employees as well as small "mom & pop" community-oriented businesses. They routinely approve transactions for equipment such as garbage trucks, laboratory instruments, computer networks, database software, manufacturing machines, kitchen & food processing equipment as well as high definition camera and broadcasting equipment. Any business that needs to stay current with their equipment and technology in order to remain competitive and viable in their industry can benefit from an equipment lease or finance option.

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