



## **Hyde Park Capital Advisors, LLC Announces Definitive Agreement Between First American Title Insurance Company and TransContinental Title**

**Tampa, FL and Charlotte, NC – December 12, 2005** – Hyde Park Capital Advisors, LLC is pleased to announce the signing of a definitive agreement between First American Title Insurance Company, the largest subsidiary of The First American Corporation (NYSE- FAF) and TransContinental Title (TCT), a privately held Clearwater, Florida-based title insurance agency and mortgage closing services company. The acquisition of TCT by First American, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is expected to close in late February. Hyde Park Capital Advisors, LLC, the investment banking subsidiary of Hyde Park Capital Partners, LLC, initiated this sale transaction by TCT and served as TCT's exclusive financial advisor and investment banker in the transaction. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Established in 1987, TransContinental Title is a licensed title insurance agency in 38 states and has the ability to handle transactions nationwide through its affiliation with First American. Led by its Chief Executive Officer and sole shareholder William Baumgart, TransContinental has become a prominent multistate title agency serving many of the nation's largest mortgage lenders, with current volumes averaging in excess of 8,000 mortgage transactions per month. For more information about TransContinental Title, visit their website at [www.tctitle.com](http://www.tctitle.com) or call 727-712-9004.

"First American shares our commitment to continuous improvement of the real estate transaction process, and it is with great pride and excitement that we join the First American organization," said William Baumgart, founder and Chief Executive Officer of TransContinental Title Company. "Leveraging key First American production resources in executing our business strategy will yield notable results for our company, our customers and the end consumers we ultimately serve."

"This acquisition will increase First American's exposure among mortgage originators through a well-recognized and highly respected brand," said James J. Dufficy, executive director of First American Title Insurance Company's National Lenders Advantage Division. "TransContinental has a strong management team and a progressive approach to title and settlement services that parallels First American's philosophy. The additional choice it presents our customers should help further solidify our leadership as the provider of choice among the leading national mortgage lenders."

"We are pleased to represent TCT and work with Mr. Baumgart and his senior management team on this very important transaction.," said John H. Hill, Jr., Senior Managing Director with Hyde Park Capital Partners, LLC. "TCT is a highly profitable and rapidly growing national mortgage processor and they are an excellent fit with The First American Corporation. Hyde Park Capital is delighted to have initiated this

transaction between these two leading companies within the financial services and mortgage industry and to have advised TCT as their investment banker.”

#### **About First American**

First American Title Insurance Company, the largest subsidiary of The First American Corporation (NYSE: FAF), traces its history to 1889. One of the largest title insurers in the nation, the company offers title services through nearly 1,700 offices and an extensive network of agents throughout the United States and abroad. The company has its headquarters in Santa Ana, California For additional information about First American, or call 714-800-3000, or visit [www.firstam.com](http://www.firstam.com).

#### **About Hyde Park Capital**

Hyde Park Capital is an institutionally focused private investment bank serving the corporate finance needs of middle market companies primarily in Florida and the Southeastern United States. Hyde Park Capital’s principals have extensive transaction experience successfully executing merger & acquisition engagements, including purchase and sale of company assignments, recapitalizations, financial advisory, fairness opinions and raising growth capital for companies, including equity, mezzanine and senior debt. Hyde Park Capital has significant experience in the financial services, technology, healthcare, consumer, and industrial sectors, but broadly represents outstanding growth companies in any industry. Hyde Park Capital is one of the most active investment banks in the Southeast and its principals have advised on more than 200 investment banking transactions totaling more than \$6 billion in transaction value. Hyde Park Capital has offices in Tampa, Florida and Charlotte, North Carolina and is a member of the NASD and SIPC. For additional information about Hyde Park Capital visit [www.hydeparkcapital.com](http://www.hydeparkcapital.com) or call (813) 383-0202.

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