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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Paragon Capital Group Announces Addition of
Crowley, Voinovich Team from Stifel**

CLEVELAND, OH -- **Paragon Capital Group, LLC** (“Paragon”) announced today that Charles R. Crowley and Michael C. Voinovich have joined the firm as Managing Directors in Investment Banking and as Principals of the firm. Also joining Paragon are Christopher M. Chapman, Istvan A. Nadas and Laura M. Davis. All of them were previously employed by Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, in Stifel’s Cleveland investment banking office.

Jeffrey S. Boyle, Managing Director and Principal of Paragon, noted, “We are very excited to have Charlie, Mike and their team join Paragon. Having previously worked with Charlie and Mike at McDonald & Company Securities and Friedman Billings Ramsey, we know that they are among the best financial institutions investment bankers in the country. They have a long track record of success in helping their clients successfully complete challenging corporate finance transactions.”

William G. Areklett, Managing Director and Principal of Paragon, added, “It’s great to be partners again with people we know and respect. We view the addition of Charlie and Mike’s team as the first step in expanding beyond our core strength in insurance, real estate and diversified industrials. By continuing to grow our merchant banking platform, we remain committed to providing exceptional investment banking services and superior investment returns.”

In commenting on the move, Charlie Crowley stated, “Our five years at the combined Stifel/Ryan Beck have been great for us and our clients, and we are sure that Stifel will continue to grow and to be very successful. We are excited about embarking on this entrepreneurial venture with Will and Jeff and their team. We will be in an even better position now to provide senior level investment banking advice to our clients. We believe that our long-term oriented, client-first approach will continue to set our team apart.”

Michael Voinovich added, “While we will continue to be able to serve clients of all sizes, our strength has always been in the middle market. We will be able to handle small and medium-sized mergers and capital raising engagements with a greater level of focus than the larger firms in our sector. Also, we have the highest degree of respect for Will and Jeff, and we are very optimistic about the ways in which we can build this firm together.”

About Paragon Capital Group

Paragon Capital Group was founded in May 2006 by Jeffrey S. Boyle and William G. Areklett, experienced investment bankers with over 30 years of combined financial advisory experience. Their experience has included advising on over 100 M&A and capital raising transactions with aggregate value in excess of \$10 billion. Paragon's operating subsidiaries include a broker-dealer, ParaCap Group LLC, that has been registered since May 2007 and a general partner of a long/short hedge fund that started in February 2008.

For additional information, please call (440) 995-1511, visit our website at www.paracapgroup.com or contact:

William G. Areklett	wareklett@paracapgroup.com
Jeffrey S. Boyle, CFA	jboyle@paracapgroup.com
Charles R. Crowley	ccrowley@paracapgroup.com
Michael C. Voinovich	mvoinovich@paracapgroup.com
Christopher M. Chapman	cchapman@paracapgroup.com
Istvan A. Nadas	inadas@paracapgroup.com
Laura M. Davis	ldavis@paracapgroup.com

PARAGON CAPITAL GROUP, LLC

PARAGON CENTER, | 6150 PARKLAND BLVD. | SUITE 250 | CLEVELAND, OHIO 44124 | (440) 995-1511