



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Touchstone Investments Appoints New Head of Mutual Fund Business

CINCINNATI — Oct. 20, 2008 — Touchstone Investments announced today that Gene L. Needles, Jr. has joined the company as president. He will have overall responsibility for Touchstone Investments including the company's business management and strategy, directing all aspects of distribution, product management, marketing, administration, advisory services and relationship management as well as acquisition activities.

"We are pleased to have Gene join our team," said Jill McGruder, president and chief executive officer for IFS Financial Services, Inc. "He possesses the leadership and vision needed for Touchstone's continued success."

"During the next month, I will be working with our team to develop a product and distribution strategy as the new paragon for Touchstone," stated Needles. "I am eager to take Touchstone to new heights."

Needles brings 27 years experience in the financial services industry to his position. Most recently, Needles served as president and chief executive officer of AIM Distributors where his responsibilities included the oversight of all U.S. retail distribution. Prior to his career with Invesco AIM, Needles held positions with MetLife State Street and Putnam Investments.

Needles earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in economics from Iowa State University.

### About Touchstone Investments

Touchstone Investments is a mutual fund company committed to providing access to institutional money managers who act in a sub-advisory capacity through a variety of strategically focused mutual funds across styles and asset classes. While its sub-advisors are held to strict performance standards, they work with a large measure of independence and operate within their own demonstrated areas of expertise. Touchstone regularly reviews fund results including investment returns, investment style adherence and competitive positioning and continually monitors its funds in what it believes to be the best interest of shareholders. The Touchstone Funds are offered nationally through intermediaries including broker-dealers, financial planners, registered investment advisors and institutions by **Touchstone Securities, Inc.**<sup>1</sup> and advised by Touchstone Advisors, Inc.<sup>2</sup> Touchstone, Touchstone Funds and Touchstone Investments are federal service mark registrations and applications owned by IFS Financial Services, Inc. For more information please call 1.800.638.8194 or visit [www.touchstoneinvestments.com](http://www.touchstoneinvestments.com).

Touchstone Securities, Inc., Touchstone Advisors, Inc. and IFS Financial Services are members of Western & Southern Financial Group®, a diversified family of financial services companies whose heritage dates back to 1888 and whose assets owned, managed and under care exceed \$47 billion.

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**Touchstone Funds are distributed by Touchstone Securities, Inc.\***

<sup>1</sup>A registered broker-dealer and member FINRA and SIPC

<sup>2</sup>A registered investment advisor

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