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## NEWS RELEASE

### CFA Institute Launches Global Shareowner Rights Manual

#### Manual will help investors understand their rights in international markets

**London, 2 June, 2009** – The CFA Institute Centre for Financial Market Integrity, has launched a *Shareowner Rights Manual* to help investment professionals and investors better understand their rights as shareowners in 22 of the world’s largest capital markets including France, UK, Germany, Japan, and USA. The guide also reinforces the correlation between strong shareowner rights and lower costs of equity capital.

[The Shareowner Rights Manual](#) is structured to give readers easy access to information about their basic rights as shareowners, as well as customary practices in markets in which they invest. The manual:

- Reviews the rights shareowners enjoy in 10 developed markets and 12 developing markets;
- Provides a table listing basic shareowner rights in each market;
- Reviews current investor engagement practices and recent events;
- Addresses the legal and regulatory environments in each market; and
- Provides a list of online resources dealing with shareowner rights in each market.

The manual is in English and available as a free PDF download at [www.cfapubs.org](http://www.cfapubs.org).

Charles Cronin, CFA, head of CFA Institute Centre EMEA, said: “The CFA Institute Centre has put together the *Shareowner Rights Manual* as a reference tool to aid investors in their understanding of the risks or opportunities concerning their rights within the legal, regulatory, and governance standards in a particular market. Through our role as advocates of investor protection, the Centre has also produced a number of corporate governance manuals to help educate investors in knowing what to look for and how and why to look for it, and we hope that this latest manual will prove to be as invaluable as the others.”

The *Shareowner Rights Manual* is a companion to [The Corporate Governance of Listed Companies: A Manual for Investors](#). CFA Institute has previously published [Environmental, Social, and Governance Factors at Listed Companies: A Manual for Investors](#), and [The Compensation of Senior Executives at Listed Companies: A Manual for Investors](#). They can be downloaded for free at: [www.cfapubs.org](http://www.cfapubs.org).

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#### Media Contacts

Sally Todd / Claudia Matthes, Penrose Financial  
T: + 44 (20) 7786 4815 / 20



Steve Wellard / Sarah-Jane Purvis (Europe, Middle East, Africa)

T: + 44 (20) 7531-0755 / 0766

[steve.wellard@cfainstitute.org](mailto:steve.wellard@cfainstitute.org) / [sarahjane.purvis@cfainstitute.org](mailto:sarahjane.purvis@cfainstitute.org)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About CFA Institute**

CFA Institute is the global association for investment professionals. It administers the CFA and CIPM curriculum and exam programs worldwide; publishes research; conducts professional development programs; and sets voluntary, ethics-based professional and performance-reporting standards for the investment industry. CFA Institute has nearly 100,000 members, who include the world's 84,362 CFA charterholders, in 130 countries and territories, as well as 136 affiliated professional societies in 57 countries and territories. More information may be found at [www.cfainstitute.org](http://www.cfainstitute.org). (Bloomberg users can find CFA Institute at 497458Z).

### **CFA Institute Centre for Financial Market Integrity**

The CFA Institute Centre for Financial Market Integrity develops timely, practical solutions to global capital market issues, while advancing investors' interests by promoting the highest standards of ethics and professionalism within the investment community worldwide. It builds upon the CFA Institute 40-year history of standards and advocacy work, especially its *Code of Ethics* and *Standards of Professional Conduct* for the investment profession, which were first established in the 1960s.