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Capitol Bancorp Announces the Planned Sale of USNY Bank

LANSING, Mich., and PHOENIX, Ariz.: March 15, 2010: Capitol Bancorp Limited (NYSE: CBC) announced today that it has entered into a stock redemption agreement with USNY Bank to sell its 51 percent interest in the bank.

Capitol's Chairman and CEO Joseph D. Reid said, "This sale furthers Capitol's strategic initiative to strengthen our consolidated equity and core capital ratios."

"It has been rewarding to work with President and CEO Mike Briggs and the USNY Bank team to organize and develop the bank. We welcome the opportunity to enable the bank to retain its independence and acquire additional local ownership," commented Reid.

The transaction is expected to be completed in 2010.

About Capitol Bancorp Limited

Capitol Bancorp Limited (NYSE: CBC) is a \$5.2 billion national community banking company, with a network of separately chartered banks in 17 states. Founded in 1988, Capitol Bancorp Limited has executive offices in Lansing, Michigan, and Phoenix, Arizona.

Forward Looking Statement

Certain statements in this announcement contain forward-looking statements that are based on management's expectations, estimates, projections and assumptions. Words such as "expects," "anticipates," "plans," "believes," "scheduled," "estimates" and variations of these words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks and uncertainties, which are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual future results and trends may differ materially from what is forecast in forward-looking statements due to a variety of factors.

All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this press release. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to the company or any person acting on the Corporation's behalf are qualified by the cautionary statements in this press release. The Corporation does not undertake any obligation to update or publicly release any revisions to forward-looking statements to reflect events, circumstances or changes in expectations after the date of this press release.

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