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# Hercules Capital Receives Reaffirmed Baa3 Investment Grade Rating with Revised Outlook to Positive from Moody's Investors Service

SAN MATEO, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- [Hercules Capital, Inc.](#) (NYSE: HTGC) ("Hercules" or the "Company"), the largest and leading specialty financing provider to innovative venture, growth and established stage companies backed by some of the leading and top-tier venture capital and select private equity firms, today announced that Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") has reaffirmed Hercules an investment grade credit and corporate rating of Baa3 with a revised outlook to positive, as well as its underlying analysis.

"We are very pleased that Moody's has reaffirmed our Baa3 investment grade credit rating and revised our outlook to positive from stable," stated Seth Meyer, chief financial officer of Hercules. "This rating and the change in outlook reflect our strong long-term operating history and internally managed structure, our differentiated and diversified venture and growth stage lending model and commitment to disciplined underwriting, as well as the scale of our institutionalized lending platform."

The affirmed Baa3 rating reflects the Company's sector-leading profitability, its 21-year operating history as a business development company, and its solid capitalization and funding. The revision to positive from stable reflects the expectation that the Company's performance will be resilient despite elevated risks in the Company's sector, supported by its orientation toward senior secured investments, sound underwriting and effective asset allocation. The positive outlook incorporates the expectation that Hercules will continue to generate profitability that is superior to peers, manage leverage below its ceiling of 1.25x debt-to-equity with a solid cushion to its 150% asset coverage ratio minimum, and improve its funding and liquidity profile.

## About Hercules Capital, Inc.

Hercules Capital, Inc. (NYSE: HTGC) is the leading and largest specialty finance company focused on providing senior secured venture growth loans to high-growth, innovative venture capital-backed companies in a broad variety of technology and life sciences industries. Since inception (December 2003), Hercules has committed more than \$20 billion to over 660 companies and is the lender of choice for entrepreneurs and venture capital firms seeking growth capital financing. Companies interested in learning more about financing opportunities should contact [info@htgc.com](mailto:info@htgc.com), or call 650.289.3060.

Hercules, through its wholly owned subsidiary business, Hercules Adviser LLC (the "Adviser Subsidiary"), also maintains an asset management business through which it manages investments for external parties ("Adviser Funds"). The Adviser Subsidiary is registered as

an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Hercules' common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the ticker symbol "HTGC." In addition, Hercules has one retail bond issuance of 6.25% Notes due 2033 (NYSE: HCXY).

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release may contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We may use words such as "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "intends," "will," "should," "may" and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and should not be relied upon in making any investment decision. Such statements are based on currently available operating, financial and competitive information and are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from our historical experience and our present expectations. While we cannot identify all such risks and uncertainties, we urge you to read the risks discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and other materials that we publicly file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any forward-looking statements made in this press release are made only as of the date hereof. Hercules assumes no obligation to update any such statements in the future.

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