



Big Sky Partners Expands Unique Consulting Platform to Accelerate Brands, Empower Founders, and Provide Investments

*Big Sky Builds Network of “Creative Venturers”
to Advance Creativity, Growth for Consumer Brands*

NEW YORK (Feb. 6, 2017) – Big Sky Partners LLC, a strategic advisor, brand accelerator and financier, has expanded its platform with a roster of seasoned advisors, and closed several venture capital engagements involving consumer brands in 2016.

Big Sky Partners, founded by R. Adam Smith, a serial entrepreneur of, and private equity investor in, over twenty companies, provides owners of emerging businesses with a unique array of resources to accelerate organic growth, incubate and build brands, invest, and foster wealth creation. With a commitment to supporting client growth, the consortium offers its clients business strategy, financial planning, private capital, board formation and participation, and strategic partnerships, as well as advises on brand innovation, design, and intellectual property matters.

Big Sky Partners, based in New York, NY, was recently established as a sister organization to the founder's long-standing investment company, Circle Peak Capital LLC, founded 2002. Big Sky provides an innovative approach to the entrepreneurial journey with expertise derived from extensive experience as founders, investors, directors, and entrepreneurs of successful organizations. The firm also co-invests in its clients from time to time.

In the first half of 2016, Big Sky served as key advisor and counseled on a successful initial \$1.3 million seed investment into [KOIO Collective](#), an upstart, luxury fashion footwear brand based in Brooklyn, NY. KOIO was co-founded in 2015 by Johannes Quodt and Chris Wichert, Wharton MBA graduates, as an accessible luxury, direct-to-consumer brand, offering high-quality fashion leather goods, while championing traditional Italian artisanship. Seasoned venture capitalists led the investment, including Brand Foundry Ventures of New York, NY, and Olive Tree Capital of Los Angeles, CA, joined by value-added angels, experts, and luminaries, including Andy Dunn, Brian Spaly, Steven Alan, and Winklevoss Capital. KOIO recently extended into retail, with the opening of the KOIO Shoe Gallery, a popup in Soho, NYC. Following the KOIO success, Big Sky recently served as exclusive advisor to a multi-billion dollar global family office on a \$6 million direct secondary private investment into one of the world's top luxury e-commerce brands for women in November 2016.

Big Sky's industry expertise spans industries across fashion, apparel, food and beverage, technology, e-commerce, sports, beauty, wellness, media, entertainment, and real estate. Through its distinct platform, Big Sky builds strategic relationships and access to a global network of partners through “Creative Venturers.®” This network includes entrepreneurs, capital partners, angel investors, brands and agencies. Creative Venturers® offer clients of the firm significant direct investment, board, and C-level experience, derived from many years incubating, investing, buying, and managing hundreds of companies.

“I founded Big Sky Partners in response to tremendous demand by emerging companies and their investors for creative, nimble solutions to bridge a divide between creativity and capital,” said Smith, chief executive officer of Big Sky Partners. “Fast-growing companies are facing a hyper-competitive environment for financial resources, market share and brand recognition, and Big Sky’s distinct platform provides a holistic solution with global reach.”

Big Sky primarily focuses on high-growth companies as its core clients, including start-ups and venture-backed companies, and occasionally, pure concepts. The firm’s "later stage" projects involve corporate venture or family office endeavors involving buyside investments and M&A, generally in the consumer space. Big Sky’s global investment network was built over the last two decades and includes a wide range of capital sources across angel, family office, and institutional investors, and the firm counsels, manages and negotiates financing projects using bespoke economic arrangements.

Smith is a successful entrepreneur who manages several venturing and private equity related companies, including [Circle Peak Capital LLC](#) and [Family Office Private Advisors LLC](#). An expert in private investments, board governance, branding and wealth management, Smith is a sought-after advisor, mentor, deal-maker and investor. Smith was recently appointed as an expert advisor to the prestigious New York Fashion Tech Lab, a collaboration with global angel network, Springboard Enterprises. In addition, he has served on several prestigious boards including National Sawdust, a pioneering non-profit in Brooklyn, the Museum of Arts and Design, and the Tanenbaum Center, and is a founder of Leukemia Fighters at Weill Cornell College. He is an active alumnus of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business (CBSGSB) and was a founding member of the Private Equity Advisory Board, and a founder of the Investment Management Conference. Previously, Smith served as a principal at two leading private equity firms based in New York; Caxton-Iseman Capital, an affiliate of Caxton Associates, and Castle Harlan, Inc., each with aggregate managed equity capital of over a billion dollars.

Visit www.bigskypartners.net for more information on Big Sky Partners LLC.

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