



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado Bankers Association elects leadership for 2014-15 year

Jeff Schmitz, EVP of Citywide Banks will lead board

DENVER – Bankers on Thursday voted unanimously to elect three of their own to lead the Colorado Bankers Association in the coming year. A short biography of each is below.

Jeff Schmitz, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Citywide Banks will serve as CBA chairman for the 2014-15 year. He will be assisted by Mark Bower, executive vice president, chief financial officer and chief operating officer of Home State Bank as CBA chair-elect, and David Kelly, chief risk officer of FirstBank, who will serve as CBA treasurer.

Schmitz said he plans to work during his year as chairman to equip more bankers at all levels to advocate for their jobs and their industry. He noted involvement is an opportunity to help remove hurdles that block access to credit for certain customers. “We need to keep up the pressure and eliminate the blanket that was thrown on the industry,” he said.

While banking is beginning to see some recovery following the 2008 economic crash, CBA President and CEO Don Childears agreed there is much work to be done to ensure a healthy business climate for banks and very importantly, their customers. He said the trio of leaders is well suited to build upon the success of predecessor Koger Propst, president of Sturm Financial and ANB Bank, who concluded his term with CBA’s annual summit.

“The strong, enthusiastic leadership of these three people will help CBA improve the economy and provide opportunities for customers, which in turn benefits banks,” said Don Childears, president and CEO of the Colorado Bankers Association.

Jeff Schmitz, Citywide Banks – CBA chairman

Schmitz is the Executive Vice President/COO of Citywide Banks of Colorado, Inc. He has been employed at the bank since 1997 and has been a director of Citywide Banks of Colorado, Inc. and Citywide Banks for over 15 years. His direct responsibilities include the oversight of Wealth Management Division, Deposit Operations, IT, Marketing, CRA, Residential Mortgage, and Human Resources. Before Citywide, Schmitz co-founded JamLOGIC Software Designs, which designed human resources software tools for small business. He earned a bachelor's degree in Finance from Gonzaga University. Schmitz is a Board Member of Colorado Bankers Association and worked on the Government Affairs Committee, and past board member of Colorado Civil League. Out of industry Jeff has worked to support his faith and education of the youth. He is a board member of the Catholic Archdiocese of Northern Colorado and Legatus Colorado. His support for education and mentorship includes Schmitz Family Foundation, board member of Colorado Uplift, PGA Foundation Board, Past Chair of Machebeuf High School and the Accountability Committee at High Plains Elementary. Schmitz, his wife Marcie, and their two daughters believe giving time is much more rewarding than money and have built homes in Tijuana, Mexico and annually have worked with Colfax Community Network giving clothes and distributing food to those families living on Colfax.

Mark Bower, Home State Bank – CBA chair-elect

Mark Bower has been in community banking for 32 years. He currently is the Executive Vice President/CFO/COO and a director of Home State Bank, a locally owned bank headquartered in Loveland Colorado with 11 branches in Northern Colorado and total assets of approximately \$700 million, where he has worked the past 19 years. He oversees the bank's operations, IT, financial planning and reporting, asset/liability management, investments, audit, and compliance areas. He is a graduate of Augustana College in South Dakota where he earned a degree in Accounting and Business Administration, completed his CPA certification in 1982, and is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He is active in Loveland Sertoma and the Colorado Bankers Association. He is currently a board member of Vintage City Church and lives in Loveland with his wife Ann and their three daughters.

David Kelly, FirstBank – Treasurer

David Kelly is the Chief Risk Officer for FirstBank, a wholly owned subsidiary of FirstBank Holding Company. His responsibilities include the development, implementation, and ongoing management of all loan operations processes for the company. He is responsible for managing compliance with all lending related laws, loan documentation, collateral perfection and protection, as well as the appraisal function for the company. He has developed the company's risk management processes for commercial real estate lending and is currently developing the company's proprietary lending platform. David has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry at FirstBank, with over 15 years of experience in compliance management.

About the Colorado Bankers Association

The Colorado Bankers Association represents more than 90 percent of the 152 banks in Colorado, which have \$115 billion in assets, 1,600 branches, and 23,000 proud professionals. CBA advocates for Colorado banks of all sizes and charter types before governmental bodies and the public to continually promote and improve the banking industry amid challenge and a changing environment. CBA proactively seeks to increase benefits for bank customers, improve value for shareholders, and grow a stronger business climate for banks and our local economies. CBA supplements its effective advocacy with superior industry-specific information and education for bankers, and various high-quality products and services. CBA focuses on creating a stronger economy and helping Coloradans realize dreams by building better banks.