



NEWS
For Immediate Release
March 12, 2012

For more information contact:
Krista Gulbransen, VP Marketing
415-352-3229 or krista@wib.org

Western Independent Bankers Announces Finalists for Innovative Community Banks of the Year Awards

Two Bay Area Banks Named for Their Innovations

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, March 12, 2012— Western Independent Bankers (WIB) and BDO announced that nine community banks have been selected as finalists for the 1st Annual Innovative Community Banks of the Year Awards. The finalists represent the forward-thinking and creative achievements of community banks in three different asset size categories for innovations in 2011.

“These Innovative Community Banks of the Year Awards represent ways in which community banks are working to meet their needs of both their customers and the communities they serve,” said Nancy Sheppard, president & CEO of WIB. “The nominated banks and finalists are great examples of how community banks are adapting successfully to the changing financial services environment.”

A panel of eleven industry experts selected the finalists from a pool of nominations in the three asset size categories. The chair of the Awards Advisory Committee is Mike Soza, Partner at BDO, a professional services firm that includes many banks as clients “BDO is very proud to be co-sponsoring these awards,” said Soza. “We are pleased to be able to take part in recognizing an important aspect of the community banking industry.”

The 2011 Innovative Community Banks Awards finalists are:

Under \$150m in Assets — Bank of Santa Barbara, CA – Recapitalization of Troubled Bank by Local Private Foundations & Philanthropists; Pan American Bank, CA – Social Media; Town & Country Bank, UT – ATM/Debit Card Local Merchant Discount Program

\$150-\$500m in Assets — Circle Bank, CA – Micro Lending Fund for Women Entrepreneurs; Presidio Bank, CA – Security Platform for Commercial Online Banking Clients; Summit State Bank, CA – App to Deposit Checks from Customer’s Smartphone

Over \$500m in Assets — Bank of American Fork, UT – Senior Protection Program
Bank of Utah, UT – Video Conferencing System; First Northern Bank, CA – Commercial Solar Financing & Power Production

Profiles of each finalist bank, as well as a list of the judges, are on the [WIB website](#). The winner in each category will be announced on March 31 at 2:00 pm at WIB’s Annual Bank Conference for Bank Presidents, Senior Officers & Directors in Scottsdale, March 30-April 4, 2012.

###

About Western Independent Bankers: Western Independent Bankers (WIB) has been helping community bank executive management and board members solve their challenges for 75 years. WIB informs, educates and connects community banks with the resources and services to achieve the highest standards of personal and organizational performance. WIB has community bank members in nine western states in addition to an array of community bank service providers. For more information go to www.wib.org.

About BDO: BDO is a U.S. professional services firm providing assurance, tax, financial advisory and consulting services through 40 offices and more than 400 independent alliance firms nationwide, and a global network in 119 countries. BDO's Financial Institutions and Specialty Finance practice serves organizations across the spectrum of the industry including, commercial, savings, agency and mortgage banks; branches of foreign banks operating in the United States; credit unions; and specialty finance companies.