



NEWS

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**Bank of the West Earns \$138.7 Million in Fourth Quarter;
Full Year Income of \$572 Million up 9%**

(San Francisco, January 22, 2007) – Bank of the West today announced that net income for the fourth quarter of 2006 was \$138.7 million, compared with \$138.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2005. For the full year of 2006, net income was \$572 million, up 9% from the year earlier. At December 31, 2006, total assets were \$55.6 billion.

“During the fourth quarter, we experienced some relief from margin compression,” said Don J. McGrath, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. “We are encouraged by this trend and cautiously optimistic that we may see further margin improvement in 2007.”

Bank of the West is the third largest commercial bank headquartered in the West. The bank has more than 700 branches and commercial banking offices in 19 states: California, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Bank of the West’s holding company, BancWest Corporation, is a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution.

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