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NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Bank of the West Names Thibault Fulconis Vice Chairman of Finance

San Francisco, CA – (December 6, 2006) – Bank of the West today announced that Thibault Fulconis has been appointed Vice Chairman of Finance. He was also named Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the bank’s holding company, BancWest Corporation. The appointment of Fulconis follows the retirement of Doug Grigsby, who held both positions.

“Although I am sad to see Doug retire,” said Bank of the West Chairman & CEO Don J. McGrath, “I am pleased to bring someone of Thibault’s caliber to the bank. His long experience in financial management will ensure a seamless transition as he assumes new responsibilities here.”

Prior to his appointment, Fulconis has been employed at BNP Paribas since 1989, serving most recently as Head of Finance and Development for the International Retail and Financial Services Division (IRFS). Previously, Fulconis was an analyst with Booz Allen Hamilton in Paris. Fulconis graduated from Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) with a major in finance.

Founded in 1874, \$56.4 billion-asset Bank of the West is the third largest commercial bank by assets based in the Western U.S. Bank of the West offers a full range of business, corporate, personal, trust and international banking services and currently operates more than 700 branch locations and commercial banking offices in 19 Western and Midwestern states.

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