



BANK OF THE WEST

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NEWS

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Shepherd to Become Bank of the West President

San Francisco, July 21, 2006 - J. Michael Shepherd has been appointed to the newly created role of President and Chief Operating Officer of Bank of the West, one of the nation's 25 largest banks. Chairman and CEO Don J. McGrath announced Shepherd's promotion and several other senior management changes as part of a broader adjustment to the bank's rapid growth.

"Our franchise has grown exponentially in recent years," McGrath said, "and Michael's appointment as President and COO will allow me, after 16 years as president, to focus more closely on strategic management issues. Since joining us in 2004, Michael has been an exceptionally able General Counsel and, more recently, head of risk management and administration as well."

As President and COO, Shepherd will also join the boards of directors of both Bank of the West and its holding company, BancWest Corporation. He will have direct responsibility for the commercial, retail and consumer business lines of the bank, as well as for marketing, customer service and the bank's information technology systems. McGrath will remain President of BancWest Corporation as well as Chairman and CEO of the bank.

Shepherd joined Bank of the West in 2004 after serving as General Counsel of The Bank of New York. He had previously been general counsel of Shawmut National Corporation, a partner in the San Francisco law firm of Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison; Senior Deputy Comptroller of the Currency; Associate Counsel to the President of the United States; and Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the U.S.

In addition to Shepherd's promotion, McGrath announced the appointment of Vanessa Washington to the position of Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. Most recently General Counsel and Secretary for the San Francisco-based development company Catellus Corp., she was for the years 1992-2000 Associate General Counsel for California Federal Savings Bank.

Several other current senior executives will also take on new roles. Chief Credit Officer James Henry has been promoted to Vice Chairman and will be responsible for Risk Management; William Even, promoted to Senior Executive Vice President, will become Chief Credit Officer.

Senior Executive Vice President Donald Ward, formerly in charge of operations and systems, will become Chief Administrative Officer, responsible for human resources, corporate development and community affairs. He will be succeeded in operations and systems by Executive Vice President Donald Duggan.

About Bank of the West: Founded in 1874, \$55 billion-asset Bank of the West (www.bankofthewest.com) 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 Mid-Western states. BancWest Corporation, the bank's holding company, is a wholly owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a global financial services institution with offices in 85 countries.

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