



www.bankofthewest.com

Member FDIC

NEWS

March 22, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Roberta Wong Murray
roberta.wong@bankofthewest.com

(415) 399-8220

Bank of the West Announces Redemption of CFB Capital III Capital Securities

San Francisco, March 22, 2007 – Bank of the West and CFB Capital III have announced the redemption of all of the outstanding shares of CFB Capital III Capital Securities, at a redemption price equal to the aggregate Liquidation Amount of \$25 per Capital Security plus accumulated and unpaid distributions to, but excluding the redemption date of April 15, 2007.

CFB Capital III was established as a Delaware trust in 2002 by Community First Bankshares, Inc. to issue the Capital Securities. Bank of the West acquired Community First Bankshares, Inc. in connection with its 2004 acquisition of Fargo, ND-based Community First Bank.

On April 15, 2007 no further distributions will accrue on CFB Capital III Capital Securities. As CFB Capital III Property Trustee, Wilmington Trust Company has mailed Notice of Redemption letters to holders of record of the Capital Securities. Questions relating to the Notice of Redemption should be directed to the Property Trustee, at (302) 651-1000.

###

