



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Kroll Bond Rating Agency Initiates Coverage of Cadence Bancorp, LLC**

*Ratings Give Holding Companies and Cadence Bank, N.A. Investment Grade Ratings*

HOUSTON, May 29, 2014 – Kroll Bond Rating Agency (KBRA) announced that it has initiated coverage of Cadence Bancorp, LLC and its subsidiaries, Cadence Financial Corporation and Cadence Bank, N.A., all with investment grade ratings.

“This is a tremendous step forward in our operating strategies,” said Paul B. Murphy, CEO and President of Cadence Bancorp. “We believe the ratings reflect our progress over the past three years as we have built out a meaningful franchise in Texas and across the southeast. We have a significant base of strong customers who are being served by an incredibly talented pool of bankers. We have the best of both worlds.”

KBRA, which is registered with the SEC as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization, noted in its report that the ratings were supported by Cadence’s “strong management team, profitability, and improving asset quality.” Also noted in the report were the company’s strong controls over risk, liquidity and business continuity as well as sound funding mix and improving equity levels.

KBRA assigned Cadence Financial Corp. and Cadence Bancorp, LLC, BBB- for senior long-term debt, BB+ for subordinated debt, and K3 for short-term debt. Cadence Bank, N.A. was assigned BBB for senior deposits, BBB- for subordinated debt, and K2 for short-term debt. KBRA also pointed out that its positive report was balanced by concerns surrounding the company’s short operating history, loan concentrations and relative low capital levels.

“It is rewarding to see that our performance trajectory and our sound business principles have been recognized,” said Sam Tortorici, President of Cadence Bank, N.A. “Our entire team is unequivocally committed to bringing the best products and services to our customers and we believe this will bode well for us in the future. This ratings announcement is validation by a qualified independent third-party of Cadence’s solid progress and sound financial conditions.”

A copy of the entire report is available at [cadencebank.com](http://cadencebank.com). KBRA has issued 1,830 company ratings and more than 18,000 financial strength ratings. In addition to their status with the SEC, the company is recognized by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners as a Credit Rating Provider, is certified by ESMA and is accepted under ERISA. In addition to banks and financial institutions, the company is a full service credit rating agency that reviews a number of different other industries including Structured Finance, Corporates and Municipal Finance.

## **About Cadence Bancorp, LLC**

Cadence Bancorp, LLC (CBC), formerly Community Bancorp, LLC, is a bank holding company headquartered in Houston, Texas. CBC raised equity capital commitments of \$1.0 billion in 2010 for the purpose of making investments in the U.S. banking sector, with a particular focus on community banks that are well positioned to benefit from the equity capital, management and industry expertise CBC can provide. Cadence Financial Corporation is a subsidiary of Cadence Bancorp, LLC that owns Cadence Bank, N.A. Today, through Cadence Bank, N.A., headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, CBC has more than 95 locations in six states, including Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. As a robust financial organization, CBC is intent on supporting the economic growth of the communities it serves. Through exceptional customer service, relevant products and services, a disciplined credit and risk management framework, cost controls, and the implementation of enhanced technology, CBC has become a significant regional bank.

### Contact:

Sarah Peterson  
Cadence Bancorp, LLC  
713-871-3909 direct | 713-702-4470 mobile  
[sarah.peterson@cadencebank.com](mailto:sarah.peterson@cadencebank.com)

or

Danielle Kernell  
Cadence Bancorp, LLC  
713-871-4051 direct / 713-392-7709 mobile  
[danielle.kernell@cadencebank.com](mailto:danielle.kernell@cadencebank.com)

###