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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Cadence Bank Forms Commercial Banking Group**

*Experienced Team Sharpens Bank's Focus on Memphis and Mid-South Businesses*

MEMPHIS, Tenn. and HOUSTON, April 30, 2013 — Cadence Bank announces the formation of its new Commercial Banking group dedicated to helping Memphis and Mid-South businesses grow and succeed.

The highly experienced team, led by Phil Stevenson, executive vice president and market executive for Commercial Banking, includes Glynn Alexander, executive vice president; Stephanie Blaydes, Steve Havard and Matthew Wages, all senior vice presidents; and Ginny Smith as vice president.

“The development of this team is our latest commitment to the Memphis market,” said Hank Holmes, executive manager, Business Services for Cadence Bank, who grew up in Memphis with a family deeply entrenched in the Memphis banking industry. “With its increasingly diversified economy, rich history and distinctive blend of cultures, we are confident in our ability to flourish here and to provide our clients with the right services and the right people to help them thrive.”

Holmes continued, “As a native Memphian, I have kept in close contact with this market and its rising reputation as an epicenter for business growth and economic development throughout the region.” Holmes is a graduate of Memphis University School and the University of Mississippi.

Cadence Bank, a financially strong institution with a substantial capital base and \$5.7 billion in assets, posted the highest percentage growth of commercial and industrial (C&I) loans among U.S. banks in fourth quarter 2012, according to SNL Financial. Operating under a highly measured and disciplined loan strategy, Cadence had \$1.79 billion in C&I loans, up from \$1.27 billion in the third quarter, and representing a 40.9 percent increase.

“This is a remarkable opportunity for our group, which has worked successfully together for the past four years,” said Stevenson. “To be able to build a Commercial Banking group from the ground up that’s backed by a bank with a tremendous amount of capital, leading-edge technology and a differentiated client service experience is not your everyday occurrence. What we, as a team, found most appealing was our shared client-first philosophy. We look forward to working together to bring specialized financial solutions and sophisticated treasury management services to our clients.”

In his new role, Stevenson will build on the Cadence's success in serving commercial and middle market business clients by building and managing the group in Memphis and the Mid-South. With more than two decades of financial industry experience, Stevenson most recently served as senior vice president and sales manager, Corporate Banking at First Tennessee Bank (FTB). While there, he consistently was recognized with the Golden Circle Leadership Award for exceptional loan production. He began his banking career with Sovran Bank, now Bank of America, in Memphis, where he completed the management training program and became a commercial loan officer.

Stevenson is on the board of directors of Union Bankshares and Union Bank of Mena in Mena, Ark. Actively involved in the community, he serves on the Alumni Society Board of Directors of the Sam M. Walton School of Business at the University of Arkansas, as chairman of the Finance Committee of Christ United Methodist Church and is a member of the Thorn Society Executive Committee at Memphis University School. He is a past board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis and Mid-South Chapter of the University of Arkansas Alumni Association. Stevenson earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas. He also is a graduate of the Mid-South School of Banking.

A native Memphian, Alexander has held numerous leadership roles in his distinguished 25-year banking career, most recently with FTB's Corporate Banking group. Prior to that, he managed Private Banking at FTB's Germantown location, and at AmSouth, served as a business banker. He launched his career in banking with NationsBank, now Bank of America. He was a steady recipient of the Golden Circle Leadership Award while at FTB. Alexander received a bachelor's degree from Washington and Lee University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tampa.

Blaydes has worked as a Commercial Banking manager/senior portfolio manager at FTB for the past four years of her 18-year career. Prior to that, she served as a relationship manager at RBS Business Capital and, at M&F Bank, as a commercial lender. She also has held positions as a portfolio manager at M&F Business Credit, then a new venture owned by M&F Bank, credit officer at Sunrock Capital Corp./Summit Business Capital, senior field examiner for National Bank of Canada, and began her career as a general ledger accountant at Heavy Machines, Inc. She also is a two-time winner of Golden Circle Leadership Award. She is involved in the local community through her work with Foundation Fighting Blindness's Mid-South Chapter. Blaydes received both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Professional Accounting from Mississippi State University, and is a graduate of the Tennessee Bankers Association's Southeastern School of Commercial Lending.

Havard, with 16 years of experience in the financial industry, has spent the majority of his career in Corporate Banking, most recently with FTB, and prior to that with Bancorp South. He spent three years in business development supporting the Asset-Based Lending group at FTB, before returning there in 2009 to join the Corporate Banking team. Havard got his start in banking at NationsBank, now Bank of America, where he completed their formal commercial credit training program. While at FTB, he was a four-time recipient of the Golden Circle Leadership Award. Havard earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce and

Business Administration from the University of Alabama, and a Master of Business Administration from Union University.

Wages brings ten years of experience in banking, which previously had been spent at FTB. He served as a vice president/relationship manager within the bank's Corporate group in Memphis, and prior to that as a private client financial services relationship manager in Chattanooga. He started at FTB as a retail management trainee. He, too, is a multi-time recipient of FTB's Golden Circle Leadership Award. Wages received his undergraduate degree from Hampden-Sydney College and is a graduate of both the American Bankers Association's Graduate School of Commercial Lending at Southern Methodist University and the Southeastern School of Banking's Retail Banking program. Wages has his Series 7 and Series 63 designations as well as his insurance license.

Smith also has spent her banking career at FTB, beginning in the management training program as a credit analyst and advancing to portfolio manager. Smith also is a two-time recipient of the Golden Circle Leadership Award. She earned a Bachelor in Accounting from Auburn University followed by a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Alabama.

### **About Cadence Bank**

Cadence Bank, N.A., based in Birmingham, Ala., is a \$5.7 billion bank with more than 100 locations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. Backed by 126 years of financial expertise, Cadence serves commercial and consumer clients with a full range of innovative banking and financial solutions designed to keep pace with their lives. These products and services include commercial and consumer banking, small business banking, treasury management, international banking, specialized lending, commercial real estate, wealth management, investment and trust services, financial planning, retirement plan management, business and personal insurance, consumer loans, mortgages, home equity lines and loans, and credit cards. Cadence Bank and its affiliates, [Linscomb & Williams](#) and [Cadence Insurance Agency](#), are wholly owned subsidiaries of Houston-based Cadence Bancorp, LLC. Additional information about Cadence Bank is available at [cadencebank.com](http://cadencebank.com). Cadence Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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