



FLORIDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

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International Finance Bank's Jose Cueto Named Chair of the Florida Bankers Association

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Jose Cueto, president and CEO of International Finance Bank in Miami, has been named Chair of the FBA. The announcement was made during the Florida Bankers Association's (FBA) 135th Annual Meeting held at the Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes in Orlando. Cueto follows in the footsteps of Bill Penney, president and CEO of Marine Bank in Vero Beach.

"I'm excited to follow the tradition of championing bankers' voices both in Tallahassee and Washington to address legislation," Cueto said. "Ours is an industry that's under fire constantly. It's important that our voices be heard, and I'm ready to take on that responsibility."

Cueto is an experienced banker of more than 30 years; he has been active with the FBA for much of his career. He's served on the Government Relations Council, FBA BankPac, and FBA Board of Directors. In 2016, he was awarded the FBA Horizon Award for his outstanding dedication to the association. The award recognizes bankers who have given above and beyond expectations.

During his year as Chair, Cueto will focus on industry issues such as ESG regulation, credit union taxation, and the Safe Harbor Act. Cueto believes that he has a responsibility as Chair to help representatives better understand the impact of their proposed legislation, not only on banks but also in the local communities.

"It's important to know what's going on in legislation. If we're not cognizant of what's happening, we won't know what we're trying to defend. We need to understand how legislation impacts banks, and then explain the impact that it can have on the broader community," Cueto said. "Our banks are a big economic engine for small businesses and professionals, and legislation that puts a damper on our ability to focus on our community is dangerous for the industry as a whole."

Cueto is also passionate about recruiting young professionals as the next generation of banking leaders. Succession planning is critical to the future success of the industry; Cueto wants to engage young people in the association's advocacy efforts and encourage other banking leaders to do the same within their own organizations.

Cueto joined International Finance Bank as president and CEO in May 2015. Today, International Finance Bank is one of the largest banks in South Florida, with over \$972 million in assets and offices in Miami, Aventura, Tampa, and New York City.

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“Jose is an experienced banker who is passionate about advocating for our industry,” said FBA President and CEO Alex Sanchez. “Our Chairs take time out of their busy schedules to lead the fight for our industry in Washington and Tallahassee. Jose’s knowledge and leadership will make him a powerful advocate for bankers throughout Florida.”

Cueto will be followed by FBA Chair-Elect Derek Jones, Central Florida Region Director at Wells Fargo, who will serve a term as FBA Chair in 2024-2025.

About Florida Bankers Association

The Florida Bankers Association (FBA) serves as the primary resource through which Florida financial service providers work in unity to influence the state and federal legal regulatory environment in which they serve their customers. Established in 1888, the FBA is one of Florida’s oldest trade associations and has a membership of more than 200 financial institutions ranging in size from small community banks, thrifts and trust companies, to medium-sized banks operating in several parts of the state, to large regional financial institutions that are headquartered in Florida or outside the state. Deposits of the members of the FBA make up 98 percent of total deposits in the state of Florida.

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