



FLORIDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

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COCHRAN VIROSTEK NAMED FLORIDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION CHAIR

Tallahassee — Gwynn Cochran Virostek, senior vice president and division executive, Washington Mutual, has been elected chairman of the Florida Bankers Association (FBA). The announcement was made during the FBA's Annual Convention last month. Cochran Virostek will chair the association's board of directors and serve as the FBA's primary advocate for the financial services industry. Cochran Virostek becomes the second woman to hold the position of chairman of the FBA in its 118-year history.

"It is an incredible honor to have been elected chairman of such a dynamic association," said Cochran Virostek. "Despite sometimes challenging circumstances, Florida's financial services industry is as strong as it has ever been. I look forward to working with association members, elected officials, regulators and policy-makers to strengthen our industry and Florida's economy."

Cochran Virostek will continue to embrace the unity of FBA members with her theme for the year: "Dedicated. Involved. United."

"The FBA is one of the strongest trade associations in the nation," said Cochran Virostek. "But that is only because of the dedication, involvement and sense of unity shown by our members."

"The Florida Bankers Association has become one of the greatest state banking associations in the country; we owe that to our members and their leadership," said Alex Sanchez, president and CEO of the Florida Bankers Association. "I have no doubt that Gwynn will continue leading our association as we continue to grow stronger and more unified."

Despite the well-being of the banking industry, Cochran Virostek and the FBA will face challenges in the upcoming year, among them are the following:

- The reform of Sarbanes-Oxley Act, Section 404;
- The proposed guidance on Commercial Real-Estate lending;

(more)

- The looming property insurance crisis; and
- The removal of tax-exempt status from multi-million dollar credit unions.

Cochran Virostek has been in the banking industry for 29 years – the last 19 in Florida. As senior vice president and division executive of Washington Mutual’s retail bank, Virostek is responsible for more than 1,000 retail banking stores in seven states: Florida, Georgia, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Illinois.

Washington Mutual is the fourth largest financial institution in Florida, with more than \$12 billion in deposits housed in 246 retail banking locations in 25 counties. Nationally, it is one of the country’s leading consumer and small business banks, with assets totaling \$348.67 billion at March 31 of this year.

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