



FLORIDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2007

CONTACT: Renee Thompson
(850) 224-2265

RICK LEE, CITIZENS BANK OF FLORIDA, NAMED NEW FBA CHAIRMAN

TALLAHASSEE—Rick Lee, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Citizens Bank of Florida, was recently named the 2007 Florida Bankers Association (FBA) Chairman. The announcement was made during the FBA's 2007 Annual Convention, held this year at The Breakers in Palm Beach.

"It is truly a great honor to be selected to lead this tremendous Association," said Lee. "The banking industry works so hard to help our customers achieve their goals and dreams, whether that means buying a new car, owning a first house or sending a son or daughter to college. To lead this Association so that our banks can continue doing so is a privilege."

Lee will chair the Association's Board of Directors and serve as the FBA's primary advocate for the financial services industry during the FBA's 120th Anniversary year. Lee's theme — "Remembering the Past, Strengthening the Future" — reflects his desire to continue to build upon the foundation laid by his predecessors.

"This Association has a long history of dedicated and loyal members," said Lee. "Thanks to the hard work and passion of our membership, the FBA and the Florida banking industry are as strong as they ever have been."

"Thanks to the dedication and loyalty of our members and their leaders, the Florida Bankers Association has become one of the strongest trade associations in the country," said FBA President and CEO Alex Sanchez. "Rick Lee has always been a tremendous and valued member, we are very fortunate to have him as our new chairman."

Among the issues that will face Lee and the FBA this year will be continued work on the property tax and property insurance issues in Florida and, on the federal level, working to lessen the regulatory burden on banks and possible creation of a national catastrophe fund.

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It was also recently announced that Miller Couse, president and CEO of First Bank of Clewiston, will serve as FBA's 2007 chairman-elect. In addition to his role as chairman-elect, Couse will serve as chair of the FBA's government relations council.

Lee has worked for Citizens Bank of Florida (formerly Citizens Bank of Oviedo) since 1980. He became president and CEO of the bank in January 1998.

Citizens Bank of Florida is headquartered in Oviedo, Florida with 5 branches. Chartered in 1946, it has served the community and surrounding areas for 62 years. Additional information about the bank can be found at www.mycbfl.com.

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