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Signature Bank Expands Private Client Banking Network with Appointment of Two Teams

New Teams' Broad Reach Extends from East to West Coasts with National Client Base

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- [Signature Bank](#) (Nasdaq: SBNY), a New York-based full-service commercial bank, announced today the appointment of two new private client banking teams.

Anne Kely Denebeim, named Group Director and Senior Vice President, leads a three-person team, based out of the Bank's headquarters in Midtown Manhattan and San Francisco. Over the course of her career, Denebeim, a veteran banker with more than four decades of experience, has garnered strong banking relationships with a large network of education and not-for-profit clients throughout the nation. Based on this expertise and these extensive national relationships, Denebeim will spend her time between New York City and San Francisco, providing highly personalized client service. Before joining Signature Bank, she served as Managing Director-Preferred Banking at First Republic Bank in San Francisco for 16 years. She also held cash management roles at The Pacific Bank and Manufacturers Hanover Trust, among others.

Joining Denebeim's team are Michael Ahmed, named Associate Group Director and Vice President, and Jennifer Choi, who will serve as Senior Client Associate. Ahmed, with 13 years of banking experience, was formerly District Manager-Managing Director at First Republic Bank in New York City for five years, where he focused on establishing new banking relationships and also managed two branches. Earlier, he spent eight years at Citibank as both a personal and business banker as well as branch manager. Choi previously spent seven years at First Republic Bank as a Preferred Banker, based in San Francisco. She also worked at Bank of America as a personal banker for seven years prior.

Additionally, the Bank appointed Monica Vargas and James Yu as Group Directors and Senior Vice Presidents. They will co-lead a five-person team that has worked together for nearly five years at Citibank. The team will be based at the Bank's private client office at 485 Madison Avenue in New York City.

Vargas, bringing 15 years of financial-related experience to her new role, most recently was a Citigold Relationship Manager in Midtown Manhattan, where she focused on catering to the high-net-worth client portfolio she built. She also was a Vice President and Financial Advisor at both JP Morgan Securities and M&T Investment Group previously.

Yu was Vice President and Branch Manager for a Midtown Manhattan Citibank branch and earlier, a Vice President and Sales Manager at the institution's world headquarters in New York City, spending nearly eight years there. His concentration lies in serving commercial clients, such as investment companies, physicians, charitable organizations and high-net-worth individuals.

Cranston A. Humphrey, Safraz Deen and Kristina Kozikott all join the Vargas-Yu team as Associate Group Directors and Vice Presidents. Humphrey, with 11 years of banking experience, also was a Citigold Relationship Manager at his former institution. He worked at the Citibank global flagship branch at 399 Park Avenue in New York City, primarily focusing on providing wealth management services for a portfolio of high-net-worth clients. Earlier, he was a Private Client Banker at JP Morgan Chase.

Deen was a Branch Manager, Vice President at Citibank's 200 Park Avenue branch for 12 years before joining Signature Bank. In this capacity, he oversaw daily branch operations, developed a team of 11 bankers and managed a solid book of business spanning loans, deposits and investments.

For the past four years, Kozikott was a Citigold Relationship Manager based at a Midtown Manhattan branch, where she focused on wealth management for the affluent client base. During her 10-year banking career, she was a Private Client Banker at JP Morgan Chase in New York City and Operations Specialist at CapitalOne on Long Island.

"Both teams bring extensive experience to our banking network and represent the exact types of veteran banking professionals that thrive at Signature Bank. These professionals prefer our single-point-of-contact approach, which affords them a distinct client-centric platform from which to conduct their banking practices for the benefit of their clients," noted Joseph J. DePaolo, Co-founder, President and Chief Executive Officer at Signature Bank.

"In the case of Kely and her team, their depth and breadth on both coasts will allow the Bank to expand its client relationships from the East to West Coast, particularly in the non-profit and educational sectors. Throughout the years,

Kelny developed a strong foothold in these areas, and her ability to provide extremely personalized care to these clients will deepen our geographic reach and extend our penetration across these specialty sectors. Monica, James and their team members have worked together for a number of years. At Signature Bank, they are looking forward to a more streamlined model that affords the team time to focus on efficiently meeting the needs of their client base and financially caring for them in a highly attentive manner," he concluded.

About Signature Bank

Signature Bank, member FDIC, is a New York-based full-service commercial bank with [30 private client offices](#) throughout the New York metropolitan area, including those in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Westchester, Long Island, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island and Connecticut. The Bank's growing network of private client banking teams serves the needs of privately owned businesses, their owners and senior managers.

Signature Bank offers a wide variety of business and personal banking products and services. Its specialty finance subsidiary, Signature Financial, LLC, provides equipment finance and leasing. Signature Securities Group Corporation, a wholly owned Bank subsidiary, is a licensed broker-dealer, investment adviser and member FINRA/SIPC, offering investment, brokerage, asset management and insurance products and services.

Since commencing operations in May 2001, the Bank has grown to \$40.72 billion in assets, \$30.39 billion in loans, \$33.17 billion in deposits, \$3.80 billion in equity capital and \$3.63 billion in other assets under management as of June 30, 2017. Signature Bank's Tier 1 and risk-based capital ratios are significantly above the levels required to be considered well capitalized.

Signature Bank ranked on [Forbes' Best Banks in America](#) list for the seventh consecutive year in 2017 and was recently named Best Business Bank for the third consecutive year by the [New York Law Journal](#) in the publication's [seventh annual reader survey](#). The Bank also ranked second in the Best Private Bank and Best Attorney Escrow Services categories in the listing. Additionally, Signature Bank was cited among the top three of [the nation's best private banking services providers](#) in the [2017 Best of The National Law Journal](#) reader rankings. The Bank was also named Best Commercial Bank of the Year - U.S. by [International Banker](#) in their [International Banker 2017 North and South American Awards](#) program. Furthermore, Signature Bank was the recipient of two gold Stevie Awards® in [The 15th Annual American Business Awards](#) for 2017: Company of the Year in both Banking and Financial Services-Large categories.

For more information, please visit www.signatureny.com.

This press release and oral statements made from time to time by our representatives contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are subject to risks and uncertainties. You should not place undue reliance on those statements because they are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties relating to our operations and business environment, all of which are difficult to predict and may be beyond our control. Forward-looking statements include information concerning our future results, interest rates and the interest rate environment, loan and deposit growth, loan performance, operations, new private client teams and other hires, new office openings and business strategy. These statements often include words such as "may," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "potential," "opportunity," "could," "project," "seek," "should," "will," "would," "plan," "estimate" or other similar expressions. As you consider forward-looking statements, you should understand that these statements are not guarantees of performance or results. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements and can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us or in our control. These factors include but are not limited to: (i) prevailing economic conditions; (ii) changes in interest rates, loan demand, real estate values and competition, any of which can materially affect origination levels and gain on sale results in our business, as well as other aspects of our financial performance, including earnings on interest-bearing assets; (iii) the level of defaults, losses and prepayments on loans made by us, whether held in portfolio or sold in the whole loan secondary markets, which can materially affect charge-off levels and required credit loss reserve levels; (iv) changes in monetary and fiscal policies of the U.S. Government, including policies of the U.S. Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; (v) changes in the banking and other financial services regulatory environment and (vi) competition for qualified personnel and desirable office locations. Although we believe that these forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, beliefs and expectations, if a change occurs or our beliefs, assumptions and expectations were incorrect, our business, financial condition, liquidity or results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Additional risks are described in our quarterly and annual reports filed with the FDIC. You should keep in mind that any forward-looking statements made by Signature Bank speak only as of the date on which they were made. New risks and uncertainties come up from time to time, and we cannot predict these events or how they may affect the Bank. Signature Bank has no duty to, and does not intend to, update or revise the forward-looking statements after the date on which they are made. In light of these risks and uncertainties, you should keep in mind that any forward-looking statement made in this release or elsewhere might not reflect actual results.

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Signature Bank

Investor Contact:

Eric R. Howell, 646-822-1402

Executive Vice President -

Corporate and Business Development

ehowell@signatureny.com

or

Media Contact:

Susan J. Lewis, 646-822-1825

slewis@signatureny.com

Source: Signature Bank

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