



May 27, 2003

Janice Ashley Joins Signature Bank

Janice Ashley, a top banking professional with more than 30 years of experience, has joined Signature Bank as Senior Vice President and Group Director at its Garden City, NY office, announced Joseph DePaolo, Signature Bank's President and Chief Executive Officer. He also announced that Kimberly Notaro and Sheryl L. Frederick have joined as Senior Client Associates at the Garden City office.

Ms. Ashley started her banking career in 1972 with Franklin National Bank, which in 1974 was acquired by EAB. Prior to joining Signature, she was a Vice President in the EAB Plaza Headquarters Branch of EAB, which was acquired by Citibank in 2001. Each with 15 years of banking experience, Ms. Notaro and Ms. Frederick also joined from Citibank where they served as Sales Manager and Operations Manager, respectively.

"Janice's wealth of banking industry experience and strong client relationships will be invaluable as we look to expand Signature's presence in the Long Island area and serve a growing number of businesses, professionals and affluent individuals," said Mr. DePaolo.

Ms. Ashley is a past president of the Garden City Lion's Club and active in many philanthropic organizations, including the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society and the Long Island Blood Services. A resident of Garden City, she earned a bachelor's degree from Hartwick College.

In only two years since launching, Signature Bank has grown to rank among the top five percent of commercial banks by assets in the United States, accumulating a remarkable \$1.7 billion in client assets. Now with nine New York area locations, Signature, whose parent company is Bank Hapoalim, one of the top 150 banks in the world, provides a single point of contact for personalized financial service, including full brokerage capabilities through its affiliated brokerage firm, Signature Securities Group.

Signature's target market is businesses, their owners, management or staff as well as individuals with substantial assets. Rather than offering proprietary "house" products, Signature has selected a full complement of best-of-class products and services from a range of top providers – offering flexibility to its bankers and brokers and ensuring objective advice to clients. Continuing its growth pattern, Signature expects to open several additional locations in the New York Metropolitan area within the next year.

Signature Bank's nine locations are: 261 Madison Avenue, 300 Park Avenue, 71 Broadway, 565 Fifth Avenue and 950 Third Avenue in Manhattan, 26 Court Street and 84 Broadway in Brooklyn, 1C Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle, NY and 1225 Franklin Avenue in Garden City. Its Website address is www.signatureny.com. Signature Bank is a member FDIC. Signature Securities Group is a member NASD/SIPC.

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