



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SIGNATURE BANK NAMED BIGGEST ASSET GAINER AND 20<sup>th</sup> LARGEST  
COMMERCIAL BANK IN NEW YORK AREA BY *CRAIN'S NEW YORK BUSINESS***

NEW YORK ... May 6, 2004 ... Signature Bank (Nasdaq: SBNY), a New York-based full-service commercial bank, announced today that the Bank was named the biggest gainer based on total assets among the New York area's largest commercial banks, according to *Crain's New York Business*.

The April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004 issue of *Crain's New York Business*, a leading business journal throughout the New York metropolitan area, featured Signature Bank in its annual rankings of the New York area's top performing banks and thrifts. Signature's assets grew approximately 79 percent to \$1.9 billion in 2003, the period surveyed by *Crain's*, from \$1.1 billion in 2002. This continued growth has been achieved without merger or acquisition and represents efforts put forth by the Bank's private client teams. These teams focus on serving the banking needs of privately owned businesses, their owners and senior managers.

Signature Bank also ranked the 20<sup>th</sup> largest commercial bank in New York, based on assets, in this year's list. For 2002, Signature ranked second among the biggest gainers and as the 24th largest commercial bank in the same list published by *Crain's*.

"We are honored to receive this type of acknowledgement for our recent growth from *Crain's New York Business*. As we mark our three-year anniversary this May, we have experienced many milestones. These include the recent completion of an IPO, the reporting of record earnings for our first quarter as a public company, reaching \$2 billion in assets and growing our network of private client offices to 11 throughout the New York area," said Joseph J. DePaolo, Signature Bank President and Chief Executive Officer.

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"Since our inception in May 2001, we have focused on serving the needs of privately owned businesses, their owners and senior managers - a niche we believe continues to be underserved by New York's large commercial banks. With ongoing recruitment of established private client groups that offer clients highly personalized service, we have been able to achieve significant growth in a relatively short period of time. Obviously, the hard work of our private client groups has not gone unnoticed, and we appreciate their dedication to the organization. All of these efforts have contributed to the recent ranking, and we are pleased to be recognized by *Crain's* for the success of our rapidly growing bank," DePaolo commented.

Signature Bank, member FDIC, is a New York-based full-service commercial bank with 11 financial centers located throughout the New York metropolitan area serving the needs of privately owned business clients, their owners and senior managers through dozens of private client and investment groups. The Bank offers a wide variety of business and personal banking products and services as well as investment, brokerage, asset management and insurance products and services through its subsidiary, Signature Securities Group Corporation, a licensed broker-dealer, investment adviser, and member NASD/SIPC.

Since commencing operations in May 2001, the Bank has grown to approximately \$2.17 billion in assets, \$1.74 billion in deposits, \$259 million in equity capital and approximately \$854 million in other assets under management as of March 31, 2004.

Signature Bank's 11 locations are: In Manhattan: 261 Madison Avenue; 300 Park Avenue; 71 Broadway; 565 Fifth Avenue and 950 Third Avenue. In Brooklyn: 26 Court Street and 84 Broadway. In Westchester: 1C Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle. In Long Island: 1225 Franklin Avenue in Garden City; 275 Sunrise Highway in Rockville Centre and 58 South Service Road in Melville. For more information, please visit [www.signatureny.com](http://www.signatureny.com).

*This press release may contain statements, including but not limited to, statements concerning future results of operations or financial position, borrowing capacity and future liquidity, future investment results, future credit exposure, future loan losses and plans and objectives for future operations, and other statements regarding matters that are not historical facts, that are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are not historical facts but instead are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties, and represent only the Bank's belief regarding future events, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside of its control. Any forward-looking statements the Bank may make speak only as of the date on which such statements are made. It is possible that the Bank's actual results and financial position may differ, possibly materially, from the anticipated results and financial condition indicated in or implied by these forward-looking statements.*

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