



INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
BANKERS of AMERICA

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Sterling Bank Named a Top Performer
National 'Top 20' Ranking Credits the Bank's Efficiency

Washington, D.C. (June 20, 2008)—*ICBA Independent Banker*, the award-winning national magazine of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), highlighted Sterling Bank as a "Top 20" industry earnings performer.

Sterling Bank was recognized for posting one of the 20 best year-end earnings performances in 2007 for ICBA member banks with \$250 million-\$500 million in assets.

"Community banks are integral to the economic and civic fabric of thousands of towns and cities across America," said Cynthia L. Blankenship, ICBA chairman and vice chairman of Bank of the West, Irving, Texas. "In addition to offering quality financial products and services, community banks like **Sterling Bank** spend countless hours and resources helping their communities thrive. ICBA congratulates **Sterling Bank** for serving its community so efficiently and effectively."

Sterling Bank was identified in *ICBA Independent Banker's* annual year-end ranking of ICBA members based on the standard industry performance measures of return on average assets and return on average equity. The magazine compiles its annual member rankings in its June issue from the latest available year-end FDIC call report data.

Separate performance rankings are listed for Subchapter S corporation community banks and Subchapter C corporation community banks among five asset categories. For details, visit the online news and media center at www.icba.org and click on Top 20 Best Performers.

ICBA Independent Banker is the flagship magazine published by ICBA. The monthly magazine is the only nationally distributed publication that exclusively covers the community bank marketplace.

About ICBA

The Independent Community Bankers of America, the nation's voice for community banks, represents nearly 5,000 community banks of all sizes and charter types throughout the United States and is dedicated exclusively to representing the interests of the community banking industry and the communities and customers we serve. For more information, visit www.icba.org.

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