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NEWS RELEASE

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Email:

Business First Bank expands into Texas opening a loan production office in Dallas

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA – Jude Melville, President and Chief Executive Officer of Business First Bank, today announced the bank's formal expansion into Texas and opening of a loan production office in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

"Business First's particular model of banking — serving small and lower middle market businesses and their executives — is a regionwide need," said Melville. "For more than a decade we have been serving our Louisiana clients as they do business in the high growth areas of Texas, and we now look forward to bringing that same level of consistency and partnership to clients in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Our success depends on having the right bankers on our team, and we are pleased to announce Chris Shaw, a seasoned business banker and native of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, is leading our efforts on the ground.

Shaw has more than 15 years of banking experience, most recently as Executive Vice President and Dallas Commercial Manager for a Dallas community bank. He has a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and MBA from Texas A&M-Commerce and is a graduate of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU. He is an Eagle Scout and remains active with the Boy Scouts of America.

Joining Shaw is a group of banking professionals — Scott Kelley, Karl Chiao, Scott Klor and Annabeth Dugger. The loan production office is

located at Spring Valley Center, 5220 Spring Valley Road, in Dallas, Texas, just north of the 635 and Dallas North Tollway intersection.

About Business First Bank
Business First Bank is a full-service commercial institution that specializes in business and private banking. Founded by a group of entrepreneurs in 2006, it has grown to over $1.2 billion in assets in nine markets across Louisiana and Texas. Business First Bank operates 19 offices, including 16 banking centers, two loan production offices and one wealth solutions office in markets across Louisiana and Texas. Business First Bank provides commercial and personal banking, treasury management and wealth solutions services to private businesses and their owners, operators, executives and employees.

Forward-Looking Statements
Certain statements contained in this news release may not be based on historical facts and are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These forward-looking statements may be identified by their reference to a future period or periods or by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "may," "might," "will," "would," "could," or "intend." We caution you not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements contained in this news release, in that actual results could differ materially from those indicated in such forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of factors. We undertake no obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date of this news release.