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b1BANK names Don Hingle as managing director of the Capital region market

Baton Rouge, La. (Nov. 28, 2023) - Don Hingle has been named executive vice president, managing director of the Capital region market by b1BANK, the banking subsidiary of Business First Bancshares, Inc. (Nasdaq: BFST). In the position, Hingle will lead all banking operations in the Baton Rouge market and serve on the Production Leadership Team that develops long-term strategic plans for b1BANK.

"Don has a wealth of banking knowledge and experience, not only across Louisiana but specifically in Baton Rouge," said Mike Nizzo, regional president of b1BANK. "His decades of banking and community leadership, as well as his understanding of Baton Rouge, makes him the perfect choice to lead this market."

Hingle has over 40 years of Louisiana-based banking experience, including 12 at multiple executive positions with b1BANK. He joined b1BANK in 2009 as president of the Houma market and later served as a regional CEO, chief credit executive and director of market expansion. Most recently, Hingle was appointed regional president and managing director of the Houston region following b1BANK's acquisition in 2022 of Texas Citizens Bank. Before b1BANK, Hingle was at Whitney National Bank, including 10 years as a senior vice president overseeing the southeast Louisiana region.

Hingle is active in the community, having served as a board member of the Baton Rouge Symphony, chairman of the Houma/Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, Terrebonne Economic Development Authority and Terrebonne Port Commission, and president of the South-Central Industrial Association. He received a bachelor's degree and an MBA from the University of New Orleans.

About Business First Bancshares, Inc.

As of September 30, 2023, Business First Bancshares, Inc., Nasdaq: BFST, through its banking subsidiary b1BANK, has $6.5 billion in assets, $6.0 billion in assets under management through b1BANK's affiliate Smith Shellnut Wilson, LLC (SSW) (excludes $0.9 billion of b1BANK assets managed by SSW) and operates Banking Centers and Loan Production Offices in markets across Louisiana and the Dallas and Houston, Texas areas, providing commercial and personal banking products and services. Commercial banking services include commercial loans and letters of credit, working capital lines and equipment

financing, and treasury management services. b1BANK was awarded #1 Best-In-State Bank, Louisiana, by *Forbes* and *Statista*, and is a multiyear winner of *American Banker's* "Best Banks to Work For." Visit b1BANK.com for more information.

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