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**Announcing New Investment Banking Firm
Commerce Street Capital LLC**

*Three areas of focus: investment banking, bank development
and fund management*

DALLAS, TX (October 5, 2007) A new privately held investment banking firm has been formed and headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Launched on Oct. 1, 2007, as Commerce Street Capital LLC, the firm has a team of nearly 50 professionals and comprises many of the familiar faces the financial industry has known through the years as employees of SAMCO Capital Markets, Inc. The Commerce Street Capital team has built its reputation as leading investment bankers serving community banks. The firm will be led by three partners: Chairman Jim Gardner, CEO William D. "Tex" Gross and President Dory Wiley.

Commerce Street Capital is focused on serving financial institutions across the United States through three lines of business: investment banking, bank development and fund management. "We believe this focus positions our new firm for growth and success," explained Chairman Jim Gardner.

"The formation of the new firm reflects a natural evolution of our business during the past several years and enables us to concentrate on the areas in which we have built our expertise—helping banks grow and prosper," stated CEO Tex Gross.

For more than 20 years, the firm's leadership has built their reputation as leading investment bankers for community banks across the United States. In addition, the bank development group, dedicated to helping raise capital for community banks, is an integral part of the firm. Commerce Street Capital also plans to continue building its fund management business.

During the firm's kick-off meeting on Oct. 1, President Dory Wiley addressed the team by saying, "Our competitive advantage lies in our integrity, customer service, honesty, heart and attitude. Success is a journey, not a destination. Here's to our journey of success."

Commerce Street Capital's headquarter offices are located at 1700 Pacific Ave., Suite 2020, Dallas, TX 75201. The main phone number is 214-545-6800, and the Web site is www.commercestreetcapital.com. Commerce Street Capital is a member of FINRA/SIPC.

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Photos and interviews available

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