

Commerce Street Capital's Carla Brooks Named One of Top 25 Nonbank Women in Finance by *U.S. Banker*

DALLAS, TX (September 30, 2008) Commerce Street Capital LLC (CSC), an investment banking firm serving community banks, is celebrating the honor bestowed on one of its own. Managing Director/Deputy Portfolio Manager Carla Brooks was ranked 13th on this year's Top 25 Nonbank Women in Finance, part of The 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking (The 25 MPWIB), in *U.S. Banker's* 6th annual performance-based influence ranking, which will be published in October 2008. Additionally, Brooks was selected to be featured on the publication's cover, along with eight other honorees.

"As a journalist covering the industry and founder of The 25 MPWIB this year's ranking was indeed a fierce undertaking given the economic and financial challenges that so many players faced," explained Holly Sraeel, editorial director of *U.S. Banker*. "It is for this reason that the 2008 ranking has special importance for those honored and the significant contributions they have made to their organizations."

Since 2002, Brooks has played an integral role in developing and building Commerce Street Capital's fund management business. Having built a successful career in bank regulation and oversight, Brooks was in a unique position to help create private equity funds to invest in banks.

Brooks leads the efforts to evaluate opportunities to invest that capital in banks throughout the U.S. She has analyzed and performed due diligence on approximately 500 organizations and invested in 39 during a time when many investments in financial institutions, particularly in growth markets were well in excess of book value (at least over two times). On average, portfolio investments were made at less than 1.25 times book value. Since the initial investments were made, book value of the portfolio banks increased by 5.49% and the portfolio banks have grown deposits and assets by 357% and 263%, respectively.

"I'm flattered," Brooks stated about her ranking. "I truly appreciate and enjoy working in the business of assisting and advising financial institutions and want to thank my Commerce Street Capital colleagues as well as those throughout my career who have encouraged and had confidence in me to be better-than-ever in this profession. I dedicate this honor to my father and grandfather who were both bankers, as well as to my late husband."

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About Commerce Street Capital LLC

Commerce Street Capital, LLC is a privately held investment banking firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas, focused on serving financial institutions across the United States through three lines of business: investment banking, bank development and fund management. For more than 20 years, the firm's leadership has built their reputation as leading investment bankers, financial advisors and investors in community banks across the United States. For more information, visit www.commercestreetcapital.com. Commerce Street Capital is a member of FINRA/SIPC.

About U.S. Banker

U.S. Banker is written for the senior executives responsible for generating revenue, profits and shareholder value for their financial institutions, including bank and non-bank directors, chairmen, CEOs, presidents, managing directors, EVPs, SVPs, CFOs, CMOs, CIOs and business-line executives. Each monthly issue brings detailed analysis, insight and commentary in the areas of retail, small-business, corporate and institutional banking, community banking, technology, wealth management, M&A, marketing and more. For more information, visit www.us-banker.com. For more about The 25 MPWIB, visit <http://www.americanbanker.com/25mpwib/about.html>.

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