

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PR Contact: Debbie Fitzgerald Fitzgerald PR Inc. 770-887-6060

## **Commerce Street Capital Has Been Retained to Sell Ownership of Surety Bank**

**DALLAS, TX (January 15, 2008)** Commerce Street Capital, LLC, a leading investment banking firm serving community banks, has been retained to sell Surety Bank, located in Fort Worth, Texas. This announcement was made today by Jim Gardner, chairman of Commerce Street Capital.

“The sale of Surety Bank offers a unique opportunity to gain entrance to or expand into Tarrant County and we look forward to helping Surety Bank find a new owner,” stated Gardner.

As of November 30, 2007, Surety Bank had assets of approximately \$35 million. To facilitate the sale of the bank and help the company resolve some regulatory issues, the holding company for Surety Bank, Surety Capital Corp., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in December 2007. The filing is not expected to affect the operation of the 75-year-old community bank, which remains well capitalized. The bank’s board of directors and management team are excited about the opportunity to work with new ownership for the continued success of the bank.

Commerce Street Capital’s CEO Tex Gross and Managing Director Jacob Thompson are also working closely with Gardner on the bank’s sale.

Commerce Street Capital, LLC, is a privately held investment banking firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas, focused on serving financial institutions across the United States. For more than 20 years, the firm’s leaders have built their reputations as some of the foremost investment bankers for community banks. For more information, visit [www.commercestreetcapital.com](http://www.commercestreetcapital.com). Commerce Street Capital is a member of FINRA/SIPC.

This press release is for information purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or offer by Commerce Street Capital LLC to buy or sell any securities, futures, options, foreign exchange or other financial instrument or to provide any investment advice or service. The testimonials stated within this press release may not be representative of the experience of other clients. The testimonials stated within this press release are not indicative of future performance or success. The testimonials stated within this press release are not paid testimonials.

###

***Photo and interview available with  
Jim Gardner or Jacob Thompson***