



R. Timothy Watson Joins Whitney as Director of Corporate Treasury

NEW ORLEANS, Jul 15, 2009 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX News Network) -- Whitney National Bank announces that Robert Timothy "Tim" Watson has joined the Bank as Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Treasury.

"Tim's comprehensive understanding of financial markets and knowledge of bank treasury functions brings additional depth to our already experienced corporate treasury team," said Thomas L. Callicutt, Jr., Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Whitney. "Tim has demonstrated strong leadership in his previous roles, and we look forward to his significant contributions toward achieving Whitney's long-term strategic objectives."

Reporting directly to Whitney's Chief Financial Officer, Watson has responsibility for management of all of the Bank's corporate treasury functions, including an approximately \$2 billion investment securities portfolio, wholesale funding, liquidity management, investment accounting and interest rate risk simulation and management.

"Whitney was built on a solid foundation and continues to be a strong institution," said Watson. "I share the same principles that have made Whitney successful for over 125 years - paying close attention to the dynamics of the markets, maintaining a strong net interest margin and adhering to strict risk management guidelines."

Watson has been in banking for over 25 years, most recently as Senior Vice President and Treasurer of BankAtlantic in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. While at BankAtlantic, he was Chairman of the Bank's Asset / Liability Committee (ALCO) and the 401(k) Committee. Watson was a member of the Investment Committee at the bank and holding company level and a member of the Board of Trustees of the bank's Charitable Foundation. Prior to BankAtlantic, Watson was a Managing Director at JP Morgan / Chase and predecessor companies such as Bank One, First National Bank of Chicago and National Bank of Detroit. His broad background in corporate treasury at those companies includes co-managing a \$45 billion fixed income portfolio, working as a foreign exchange trader, underwriting municipal bonds, co-managing a non-U.S. dollar sovereign debt portfolio and heading a due diligence team for potential acquisitions. Watson is a cum laude graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan with a BS degree, majoring in Finance.

Whitney Holding Corporation (Nasdaq:WTNY), through its banking subsidiary Whitney National Bank, serves the five-state Gulf Coast region stretching from Houston, Texas; across southern Louisiana and the coastal region of Mississippi; to central and south Alabama; the panhandle of Florida; and the Tampa Bay metropolitan area of Florida.

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