



**AMEGY BANK DALLAS ACHIEVES PREFERRED LENDER STATUS WITH
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Amegy Appoints Karen Thompson as Dallas Government Guaranteed Lender

DALLAS – August 24, 2006 - Amegy Bank today announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration has designated Amegy Bank in Dallas as one of its Preferred Lender Providers (PLP). Preferred lender status, the SBA's most premier accreditation, allows Amegy in Dallas to streamline and expedite the SBA loan approval, closing and servicing functions. Lenders are awarded the distinction based on their historical record with the SBA. Amegy Bank holds PLP status in Houston as well.

Amegy also announced the appointment of Karen Thompson as Vice President and Government Guaranteed Lender for the Dallas market.

"Achieving preferred provider status – in addition to having Karen oversee our SBA functions – shows our commitment to having the best people, products and services for small business owners," said Matt Hildreth, president and CEO of Amegy Bank Dallas.

With more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry and 10 years in small business lending, Karen Thompson will lead Amegy's Government Guaranteed Lending business development efforts in the Metroplex.

Jim Bloodgood, SVP and Commercial Lending Manager for Dallas, added, "In addition to her banking experience, Karen has owned her own small business so she can relate to the needs of small business owners. Her knowledge and skills make her a natural choice to serve Dallas business owners."

Karen received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

About Amegy Bank of Texas

Amegy Bank of Texas is one of the fastest growing banks in Texas. With assets of more than \$9 billion, local decision making and a history of relationship banking, Amegy has the resources to serve leading Texas companies as a source of capital as well as provide efficient and effective treasury management, international and investment services. The Bank, with more than 75 locations in the state, specializes in small business banking as well as private financial management and trust services for families and individuals, and retail and mortgage banking services. Amegy entered the Metroplex market in 2002 and is supported by its downtown Dallas full-scale operations center and five banking centers in strategic locations. Amegy is a part of the Zions Bancorporation (NASDAQ: ZION) collection of great banks.

Contacts:

Leigh Akin, Corporate Communications, Amegy Bank
Leigh.akin@amegybank.com or 713.232.1433

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