

Texas Department of Banking

Press Release

Banking Commissioner Randall S. James announced the opening of First Bank & Trust, Ennis, Texas

Date: July 18, 2001

Banking Commissioner Randall S. James announced today the opening of First Bank & Trust. The bank, located at 2200 Ennis Avenue, Ennis, Texas, is the second state chartered de novo bank to open in 2001. The bank is expected to target the local consumer and commercial market and to provide the Ennis community and Ellis County a full range of credit and deposit services. Capitalization of the bank totals \$5,000,000.

First Bank & Trust's business strategy will draw upon core strengths of experience and knowledge of the marketplace and long-time relationships. The organizers of the bank, who also serve as the initial Board of Directors, include Riley C. Peveto, Chairman of the Board; Michael J. Montgomery, Vice-Chairman, President & CEO; Johnny R. Cody; E. Ray Nichols; and John P. Davis. The five organizers of the bank have approximately 135 years of banking experience, primarily in the service area of the new bank. The new bank is an independent community bank with local ownership interest in GNB Bancshares, Inc., a multi-bank holding company located in Gainesville, Texas.

Commissioner James welcomed the organizers into the state bank system and congratulated them on their commitment to offer convenient, professional banking services, with personalized customer attention to both the business and residential communities of the Ennis community and Ellis County.