

# **Texas Department of Banking**

## **Press Release**

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### **Texas Banking Commissioner Realigns Two Director Positions**

Date: February 3, 2003

Texas Banking Commissioner Randall S. James announced a realignment of two senior staff positions within the Department. Robert (Bob) L. Bacon will assume the duties of Director of Bank & Trust Supervision and W. Kurt Purdom will replace Mr. Bacon as Director of Strategic Support. Commissioner James stated, "I am pleased that our staff is continuing to develop their leadership and management skills. Bob and Kurt bring a lot of experience and professionalism to the table, and I appreciate their willingness and enthusiasm to undertake new challenges. They exhibit the cooperative spirit we need to meet the supervisory challenges of tomorrow".

The Bank & Trust Division is responsible for supervising 350 state-chartered commercial banks with over \$100 billion in total assets including branches of out-of-state state-chartered institutions. In addition, there are 9 foreign bank agencies with \$32 billion in assets and 26 trust companies with \$31 billion in fiduciary assets. The Bank & Trust Supervision Division is further segmented into four geographic regions, Austin, Dallas, Houston, and Lubbock each of which are under the direction of a regional director who directly supervises the agency's field examination staff in those locations.

The Division of Strategic Support has primary responsibility over the agency's strategic planning, policy development, examination support functions, staff training, published reports, and consumer assistance activities. In addition, Mr. Purdom will serve as the agency's Ombudsman regarding examination findings and will work closely with Commissioner James on legislative issues and regulatory guidance.

Mr. Bacon is a native of Austin and graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. He began his employment with the Department in 1975, advancing to the rank of Senior Examiner. In 1981, he became President of a newly chartered locally owned institution. In 1988, he rejoined the Department as a Senior Examiner and was stationed in the Austin Region before being appointed to Director of Strategic Support in June 2000. Mr. Bacon resides in Cedar Park with his wife Susan, and their daughter Katherine attends Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

Mr. Purdom is originally from Angleton, Texas, and is a graduate of Texas A&M University in College Station, and The Graduate School of Banking at Colorado in Boulder. Mr. Purdom began his employment with the Department in 1982 as an Assistant Examiner. He progressed through the ranks as a field examiner, became Assistant Regional Director of the Houston Region in 1989, and was promoted to Regional Director of the Austin Region in 1992. As Regional Director, Mr. Purdom supervised a staff of 22 field examiners that maintain direct examination responsibility for 96 commercial banks and three trust companies. Cy Vance, Assistant Regional Director, will oversee the region until the director position is permanently filled. Kurt and his wife, Melisa, reside in Round Rock and are the proud parents of two children, Kate and Erin.