



**The Bank of Fayetteville's Mary Beth Brooks Named One of
*U.S. Banker Magazine's "25 Women to Watch"***

For immediate release: October 1, 2007 — Mary Beth Brooks, President and CEO of The Bank of Fayetteville, has been named one of *The 25 Women to Watch*, part of *U.S. Banker's The 25 Most Powerful Women in Banking*.

U.S. Banker's annual ranking recognizes the women whose business acumen, professional integrity and personal tenacity are fostering great leadership in financial services and, thereby, strengthening America's social and economic fabric.

The ranking is determined by examining the quantitative and qualitative aspects of a nominee's performance, thereby gauging her overall influence on the institution, the industry and the community. *U.S. Banker* considers an individual's leadership skills, financial performance (three-year average, as well as year over year), job complexity, contribution to the institution's top and bottom lines, product development, brand equity/shareholder value creation, community involvement and reinvestment, corporate governance and ethics, management style and education. *U.S. Banker's* ranking is considered by industry players to be an unparalleled indicator of outstanding achievement and influence among women executives.

With Brooks at the helm, asset growth at The Bank of Fayetteville has gone from \$355 million in 2004, to \$441 million as of September 30, 2007. Under Brooks' leadership The Bank of Fayetteville's Return on Assets (ROA) has increased from .65% in 2004 to a projected 1.47% for year end 2007.

Brooks is currently an active Board member for the following organizations: Arkansas Bankers Association, Beaver Water District, The Girls and Boys Club of Fayetteville, The New School, Fayetteville Public Library Foundation and The Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, Brooks accepted an Executive Committee position with the NWA Council.

To celebrate 2007 honorees, *U.S. Banker* will host a Black & White Ball on October 22, 2007, at the Pierre in New York City.

Established in 1987, The Bank of Fayetteville is a full-service community bank with \$441 million in assets and operates offices throughout Washington County. In addition to traditional community banking, The Bank of Fayetteville offers mortgage lending, trust services, and estate planning. Additional information is available at bof.com.

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