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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



CBSC Announces Strategic Partnership with Hopkins & Howard, P.C. to Provide Bank Valuation Services

Springfield, IL. (April 30, 2025)---Community BancService Corporation, Inc. (CBSC), the business services subsidiary of Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI), is proud to announce a strategic partnership with Hopkins & Howard, P.C. to provide member banks with a trusted name in financial analysis and advisory to offer specialized bank valuation services.

"Bank valuation services are expected to be in greater demand in 2025," said Dan Graham, president & CEO, Flora Bank and Trust and CBSC Board Chairman. He added *"The demand will be driven by several factors, including increased M&A activity, regulatory reporting, estate planning, especially considering the tax cuts from 2017 are set to expire on December 31, 2025, growth of ESOPs and executive incentive plans tied to bank stock, plans for future capital needs, dividend payouts and other financial strategies. That's why the CBSC Board voted unanimously to partner with Hopkins & Howard based on their decades of professional, proven valuation services to community banks both in Illinois and nationwide."*

Hopkins & Howard, P.C. was founded in 1991 by a group of KPMG senior managers as a CPA firm specializing in serving community banks. Today, it provides bank stock valuations, expert witness services, M&A, fairness opinions, bank fraud investigations and financial forensics to more than 135 banks throughout the U.S.

"Our relationship with CBAI and numerous member banks spans back to Hopkins & Howard's founding in 1991. Though we operate as a nationwide bank stock valuation firm, Illinois represents our largest client concentration, with clients throughout the state. We specialize exclusively in community bank stock valuations, maintaining continuous relationships with multiple Illinois clients for over two decades. We remain committed to serving Illinois community bankers and as an endorsed CBAI provider and look forward to continuing our mutually beneficial relationship far into the future." -- Joe Hopkins, CPA, ABV, CFF, Hopkins & Howard, P.C.

For more information, contact [Joe Hopkins](#) at 314-658-2627, or [Mike Kelley](#), CBSC President.