



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December, 18, 2008

Contact

Tara Perkins, Director of Public Relations, PostScript, Inc.
444 South Union Street, Burlington, VT 05401
802.863.2568, ext. 11 / tara@postscriptinc.com

**Bourgeois Appointed Vice President of Government Banking
Quinn Appointed Assistant Vice President of Government Banking**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT – Geoffrey R. Hesslink, Senior Vice President for Merchants Bank is pleased to announce that Anita L. Bourgeois was appointed Vice President of Government Banking, and Shelley B. Quinn was appointed as Assistant Vice President of Government Banking as of December 8, 2008.

Formerly, Bourgeois was employed at TD Banknorth for 18 years with 10 years of experience in government banking, managing a \$300 million deposit portfolio. Prior to government banking, she worked in retail banking and investment services.

Quinn was previously employed at TD Banknorth for 8 years in Government Banking and was promoted to Government Banking Officer in 2006. Prior to Government Banking, she worked in the Bank's operations center and with the commercial loan department.

Bourgeois is a graduate of Trinity College (formerly in Burlington, Vermont). She and her family reside in Middlesex. Quinn earned a Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University. She has recently been active with the Vermont Philharmonic and enjoys spending time with her husband and children in Plainfield.

"I am delighted that Anita and Shelley are now part of the Merchants Bank team. Their knowledge of the government banking business and strong relationships with government leaders makes them ideally suited to serve the banking needs of Vermont's cities, towns and schools," said Hesslink.



Left: Anita L. Bourgeois, VP of Government Banking, Merchants Bank
Right: Shelley B. Quinn, Assistant VP of Government Banking, Merchants Bank

Vermont Matters.[®] Merchants Bank strives to provide funding to support organizations with programs and services throughout Vermont that help meet basic needs; advance environmental initiatives, energy efficiency and awareness; and promote community enrichment through local sports related initiatives. The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a state-wide community bank that blends a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. Merchants Bank fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 36 community bank offices and 44 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service and streamlined solutions, including: Personal Banking with *CashRewards* Checkingsm, Free Checking for Life[®], a low-cost Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, Free Debit Card, and Free Automated Phone Banking; Business Banking with Rewards Checking for Business, Business Online Banking and Bill Pay, Business Lines of Credit and Merchant Card Processing; Small Business Loans; Health Savings Accounts; Credit Cards; Flexible Certificates of Deposit; Vehicle Loans; Home Equity Credit; and Home Mortgages. Visit mbvt.com for more information. Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

###