



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 25, 2010

CONTACTS: Judy Zezula: SVP, Marketing – 719-381-5545

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AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK CFO RECEIVES AWARD

SUSAN STURM, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of American National Bank, received recognition as the CFO of the Year for Large Private Companies from the Denver Business Journal on May 20, 2010. Honored as one of six recipients in given business categories, Sturm was selected by a panel of three judges for her outstanding performance in her role as a corporate financial steward.

Susan's broad financial, operating and strategic planning experience helps lead the Bank in remaining strong and secure in an increasingly tight credit market facing of numerous regulatory and economic challenges within the industry.

The economic condition and stability of the communities that the Bank serves, benefit from the stable foundation Sturm has helped maintain. The fundamental conservative banking practices upon which she has relied upon have helped to build a safe and secure Bank.

Susan Sturm believes working as a CFO is like being the lookout on a ship. “You’re scanning the horizon to see what’s coming next that might affect the business — it’s always changing,” said Sturm. “Then you have to decide what those changes mean for the very practical day-to-day activities of managing a balance sheet and leading a large team.”

“Gone are the days when the CFO is only the senior finance person. Today, the CFO of a bank must act as an advisor, a decision maker, a team leader, and be involved in the community, rather than just as a financial information provider,” said Dennis Nathan, CEO of American National Bank. “An effective CFO plays a number of important roles within our independent banking group, which are essential in providing a strong financial foundation.”

American National Bank consists of 37 community banking centers located in Colorado and Wyoming. It is a member of the Sturm Financial Group which, in addition to American National Bank, has a sister bank, Premier Bank located in Kansas and Missouri. The banking centers proudly serve their communities, offering a high level of personalized quality service to their customers with experienced, local staffs. The Sturm Financial Group maintains financial strength embodied in approximately \$2 billion in assets. The Bank offers an array of financial services for personal and business needs, online banking, investment options, cash management services, wealth management services, and consumer, commercial, SBA, and mortgage lending.

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