



Southern First Hires New Team Members

Greenville, South Carolina, March 12, 2019 – Southern First Bancshares, Inc. (**NASDAQ: SFST**), holding company for Southern First Bank, is pleased to announce that June Carlson, Michael Hopton, Tracey Smith, Lauren Kok, and Carson Simmons have joined the Atlanta office.

Carlson, Senior Vice President and Team Leader, has over 30 years of experience building long-term relationships with individuals, business owners, professionals, and their businesses in the Atlanta area. She focuses on providing prompt, creative, value-added solutions for each client. Carlson currently serves as a board member of the Buckhead Club.

Hopton joined Southern First as a Senior Vice President and Team Leader. Michael is a seasoned commercial banker with over 23 years of banking experience. He works with owner-managed, privately held businesses to maximize cash flow with cost-effective borrowing and time-saving treasury and deposit solutions. He holds the designation of Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) from the Association for Financial Professionals.

Smith is a Senior Vice President and Team Leader with 30 years of banking experience. She focuses primarily on service companies and the legal community and enjoys providing unique solutions to her clients' banking needs. Smith is a long-time supporter of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and currently serves on its fundraising committee.

Kok was hired as Client Experience Officer and provides nearly 15 years of experience in the banking industry. She serves her clients with responsiveness and professionalism and finds quick solutions to meet their needs.

Carson Simmons, Client Experience Banker, will also represent the Southern First team in the Atlanta/Buckhead market. He concentrates on being responsive and detail-oriented to make banking simple for his clients.

"We are excited to welcome this outstanding team of bankers to Southern First," stated Sandy Bowen, the Company's Atlanta Regional Executive. "Together, they bring deep experience in the banking industry and the Atlanta market, and are a great addition to our team."

ABOUT SOUTHERN FIRST BANCSHARES

Southern First Bancshares, Inc., Greenville, South Carolina is a registered bank holding company incorporated under the laws of South Carolina. The Company consists of Southern First Bank, the third largest bank headquartered in South Carolina. Southern First Bancshares has been providing financial services since 1999 and now operates in ten locations in the Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston markets of South Carolina as well as Raleigh and Greensboro, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. Southern First Bancshares has assets of approximately \$1.9 billion and its common stock is traded in the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol "SFST." More information can be found at www.southernfirst.com.

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Front row: Michael Hopton, Lauren Kok
Back row: Tracey Smith, Carson Simmons, June Carlson