

For Immediate Release

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The Illinois Bankers Association Builds Relationship with Industry-Leading Qualified Intermediary Nationwide Exchange Services (NES) As Its Preferred 1031 Tax-Deferred Exchange Partner

Member banks to offer a full range of cost-effective 1031 intermediary services to their customers

Springfield, April 26, 2006 - The Illinois Bankers Association (IBA) and Nationwide Exchange Services (NES) today announced a strategic partnership that provides member banks with a full array of 1031 intermediary services for their customers. NES is a Qualified Intermediary providing a comprehensive set of tax-deferred exchange products delivered through an advanced business process technology platform.

For many years, banks have avoided the 1031 intermediary business due to concerns of cost, liability and compliance requirements of federal banking regulations. With sophisticated business processes and controls that meet the requirements of the banking industry, NES provides IBA member banks an extensive set of tax-deferred 1031 exchange products at the highest level of customer service with minimal start-up costs and with full regulatory compliance. NES also supports banking partners with a complete suite of marketing resources for both internal training and awareness building along with external co-branded communications tools including print advertising, direct mail and online marketing programs.

"We endorsed NES's best-in-class suite of 1031 intermediary services for its cutting-edge technology and its design to help financial institutions remain compliant with regulatory standards set forth by the OCC (Office of the Comptroller of the Currency) and BSA (Banking Secrecy Act)," said Bruce

Taylor, IBA chairman and president and CEO at Cole Taylor Bank in Rosemont, IL. "NES is a company that meets the high standards that we operate by, and we are excited about the positive impact they have on deposits and the added services we are now able to refer to our customers. We look forward to working with NES for many years to come."

"We are thrilled to enter into an alliance with the IBA. Their member institutions can now offer out a suite of innovative products to their customers that will help their customers defer capital gains taxes, while delivering a direct benefit to the individual banks in the form of core deposits and added revenue. With the 1031 market segment reportedly representing approximately \$200 billion in deposits held nationally, this is a large and exciting opportunity that spans individual investors, wealth management customers, and agricultural and corporate clientele," said Scott Nathanson, senior vice president, Central US Operations at NES. "In a highly competitive banking environment, 1031 exchanges represent an excellent means for NES partnered banks to grow their core deposits with no infrastructure or compliance burden."

About Nationwide Exchange Services

Nationwide Exchange Services (NES – www.nationwide1031.com) is a leading Qualified Intermediary for 1031 tax-deferred exchanges. Since 1990, NES has conducted tens of thousands of successful 1031 exchange transactions across the nation. Today, NES applies advanced technologies and business processes to create new standards of customer-driven products and services for tax-deferred 1031 exchanges. NES is one of the nation's only Qualified Intermediaries that operates with the standards and controls that meet the needs of US financial institutions and their regulatory requirements.

About the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA)

Since 1891, financial institutions throughout Illinois have looked to the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA) as their primary resource for information, education, government representation, and supporting products and services. The IBA is a full-service trade association dedicated to creating a positive business climate that benefits the entire banking industry. The IBA is the only banking trade association in the state that represents financial institutions of all sizes. Membership includes community banks, regional banks, holding companies, savings banks, trust companies and organizations that serve the banking industry. The IBA has two offices: one just blocks from the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield and the other in the heart of Chicago's financial district.