



Encore Bank

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Lauren Goins
Director of Communications
501.621.9158
Lauren.Goins@bankencore.com

Encore Bank Expands to the Carolinas, Announces Leadership to Drive Expansion

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Oct. 15, 2021) – Encore Bank is pleased to announce its expansion into North and South Carolina as well as three new leaders to establish its presence in the Carolinas.

Vice Chairman and Chief Banking Officer Phillip Jett said the expansion into the Carolinas is part of a larger plan for strategic growth. “This is an opportunistic and strategic move for Encore,” said Jett. “Less than three years ago, we started with seven employees in one office in Arkansas, and we are now one of the fastest growing banks in the country.”

With the expansion into the Carolinas, Encore Bank is now operating in 16 markets across seven states and has approximately 200 associates.

Encore Bank plans to open multiple locations in the Carolinas, but for now, the bank is starting with Charleston, S.C. and Charlotte, N.C. Encore Bank is also considering the Piedmont Triad, Greenville, Asheville, Columbia, Raleigh and Wilmington if the bank finds the right leaders there.

“When determining which markets to choose for expansion, our first priority is to find the right kind of leaders who have the skills and relationships to build an effective team, raise capital and build the Encore brand,” said Jett. “So far, we have been fortunate to find three experienced, innovative and talented bankers in the Carolinas to establish our presence there.”

To drive the expansion in the Carolinas, Encore has selected Michael Sharpton as the Executive Vice President and Regional President for the Carolinas, Fallon Meyer as the Senior Vice President and Market President for Charleston and Ben Freeman as the Senior Vice President and Market President for Charlotte.

Michael Sharpton

Executive Vice President and Regional President
North and South Carolina

Sharpton has more than 27 years of financial services experience, managing both regional and national teams, representing a diverse mix of companies. Before joining Encore, Sharpton served as the Division Sales Executive for North and South Carolina for Wells Fargo's Commercial Bank. Over the years he led teams at CitiCapital, Terex Financial and Altec Capital. Sharpton has vast experience in sales management, strategic planning and business development with a proven track record of leading top-producing teams. He is a graduate of Samford University in Alabama where he earned a bachelor's degree in public administration.

"We are pleased Michael has joined the Encore team," said Jett. "His leadership skills, network and experience in business and employee development will be invaluable to Encore. We are confident that Michael will have a positive impact on the communities and clients we serve in the Carolinas."

Sharpton said he joined Encore Bank for its unique approach to banking. "One of the things that sets us apart from other banks is that we truly build our processes and services with our clients in mind," said Sharpton. "Our clients have their own companies to run and their own families to look after, so we are committed to make banking easy for them."

Sharpton also said the opportunity to build his own team was a contributing factor in why he made the move to Encore Bank. "The opportunity to build my own team is a strategic advantage," said Sharpton. "In the past, I have worked with both Fallon, the new Charleston Market President, and Ben, the new Charlotte Market President. We work well together, and I know from experience they are top performers in the banking industry. I'm thrilled they will be working with me at Encore."

Fallon Meyer

Senior Vice President and Market President
Charleston

Meyer has more than 11 years of experience in banking. Before coming to Encore Bank, she served as Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager for Wells Fargo in Charleston, a position she held since 2013. Throughout her career, Meyer has proven herself to be a trusted expert in commercial banking having provided financial expertise to businesses across numerous industries, including manufacturing, technology, transportation, non-profit and real estate. Meyer earned a bachelor's degree in business administration as well as an MBA from the University of South Carolina.

"Fallon has an impressive record for helping her clients meet and exceed their financial goals," said Sharpton. "Her commercial banking expertise, communication skills and excellent reputation in the Charleston area are just what we need in a leader to establish Encore's presence in South Carolina."

After accepting her new role at Encore, Meyer said: "I look forward to building out a team in the coming months, and I cannot wait to do my part to tell the Encore story. I couldn't be more

impressed with Encore's vision and people. I am honored to join them in building a *different* kind of bank."

Ben Freeman

Senior Vice President and Market President
Charlotte

With more than 20 years of experience in financial services, Freeman is a leader in commercial banking with expertise in leadership and team management, business development, financial analysis and treasury management. Most recently, Freeman served as Senior Vice President and Business Banking Leader for F.N.B. Corporation. Freeman holds a bachelor's degree in political science from North Carolina State University.

"With his strong leadership skills, extensive banking experience and business acumen, Ben will no doubt grow and develop an excellent group of experienced bankers," said Sharpton. "I can't wait to see what his team accomplishes in the Charlotte market."

Freeman said he decided to join Encore Bank because of its positive work environment and client-centered approach to banking. "As soon as you meet the people at Encore, you can feel a sense of their collaborative and fun work environment as well as their focus on building relationships with the clients they serve. I'm grateful to be a part of this incredible organization."

About Encore Bank

Founded in 1997 as The Capital Bank but rebranded as Encore Bank in 2019 after a change in leadership, Encore Bank is one of the fastest growing banks in the country. Encore Bank is a private, boutique bank with a commercial focus that couples highly experienced and talented bankers with innovative technology to offer unprecedented levels of personal service and experiences to its clients through a hospitality-inspired concierge approach. Encore Bank provides a full suite of financial products and services to businesses, business owners, professionals, their families and contacts with purpose, passion and precision. Headquartered in Little Rock, Ark., Encore Bank currently operates in 16 markets across seven states. As of September 30, 2021, Encore Bank had \$1.3 billion in total assets. Additional information about Encore Bank can be found at www.bankencore.com.

###