



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Peg Purdue, Director of Public Relations, PostScript, Inc.
444 South Union Street, Burlington, VT 05401
802.863.2568, ext. 11 / peg@postscriptinc.com

**Merchants Bank Appoints Jeanie Kelly Vice President
of Government Banking**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT – Geoffrey R. Hesslink, Senior Vice President for Merchants Bank, is pleased to announce that Jeanie Kelly was appointed Vice President of Government Banking as of September 15, 2009.

Formerly, Ms. Kelly was employed at TD Bank in the Government Banking Division. She has 29 years of banking experience with 15 of those years in government banking. Ms. Kelly earned a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership from the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, Vermont. She and her husband reside in Rutland.

"I am delighted that Jeanie is now a part of the Merchants Bank team. Her knowledge of government banking and strong relationships with government leaders makes her ideally suited to serve the banking needs of Vermont's cities, towns and schools," said Hesslink.



Jeanie Kelly, Vice President of Government Banking, Merchants Bank

Vermont Matters. Merchants Bank strives to fulfill its role as the state's leading independent community bank through a wide range of initiatives. The bank supports organizations throughout Vermont in addressing essential needs, sustaining community programs, providing small business and job start capital, funding financial literacy education and delivering enrichment through local sports activities.

Merchants Bank was established in 1849 in Burlington. Its continuing mission is to provide Vermonters with a statewide community bank that combines a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. Merchants Bank delivers this commitment through a branch-based system that includes: 34 community bank offices and 42 ATMs throughout Vermont; local branch presidents and personal bankers dedicated to high-quality customer service; free online banking, phone banking, and electronic bill payment services; high-value depositing programs that feature Free Checking for Life[®], Cash Rewards Checking, Rewards Checking for Business, business cash management, money market accounts, health savings accounts, certificates of deposit, Flexible CD, IRAs, and overdraft assurance; feature-rich loan programs including mortgages, home equity credit, vehicle loans, personal and small business loans and lines of credit; and merchant card processing. Merchants Bank offers a strong set of commercial and government banking solutions, delivered by experienced banking officers in markets throughout the state; these teams provide customized financing for medium-to-large companies, non-profits, cities, towns and school districts. Merchants Trust Company, a division of Merchants Bank, provides investment management, financial planning and trustee services. Please visit www.mbv.com for access to Merchants Bank information, programs and services. Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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