



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact**

Tara Perkins, Director of Public Relations, PostScript, Inc.  
444 South Union Street, Burlington, VT 05401  
802.863.2568, ext. 13 / tara@postscriptinc.com

***SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT***—Thomas S. Leavitt, Senior Vice President, Retail Banking for Merchants Bank announced that Prielle Sofield has been promoted to the position of Branch President for the Kennedy Drive South Burlington branch of Merchants Bank. Prielle succeeds Chris Jarvis, who was appointed to Corporate Banking Officer in December 2004. She will lead a team that includes Debra McDurfee, David Armstrong, Chad Revilla and Michele Tetreault.

Sofield joined Merchants Bank in 1999 as Teller/Customer Representative at the College Street, Burlington branch. Prielle's success in the position earned her a promotion to Lender/Customer Representative in December 2002. Her work was an integral part of a *Branch of the Year* performance by the College Street team in 2003.

Prielle has been Acting Branch President at Kennedy Drive since early September 2004. She transferred from her Lender/Customer Representative position at the College Street branch to lead the Kennedy Drive branch while Jarvis served as a Loaned Executive to the United Way of Chittenden County. Prielle demonstrated capable leadership and strong credentials during her assignment.

Sofield has been a strong loan producer and has mastered the other elements of the Lender/Customer Representative position. She has earned Certified Trainer rank and leads Merchant Bank's HomeLYNX<sup>®</sup> education efforts, having also contributed as a Teller Trainer in her home branch.

Sofield was raised in Newfane, Vermont where she excelled in academics and athletics at Leland and Gray Union High School in Townshend. Prielle attended Castleton State College and the University of South Carolina before returning to Vermont to begin her banking career. She resides in Chittenden County and has been very active in community organizations, including the Programs and Promotions Committee of the *Burlington Business Association* and as Secretary on the Board of Directors for *Kids on the Block-Vermont*.

The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a true community bank. It fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 35 bank offices throughout Vermont, employees dedicated to quality customer service and the LYNX family of

products: Free Checking for Life<sup>®</sup>, MoneyLYNX<sup>®</sup> Money Market Account, TimeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Certificate of Deposit, HomeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Home Equity Line of Credit, RealLYNX<sup>®</sup> Residential Mortgages, CommerceLYNX<sup>®</sup> Business Banking Services, eLYNX<sup>®</sup> Online Banking and PhoneLYNX<sup>SM</sup> Automated Phone Banking. For more information about Merchants Bank visit our website at [www.mbyt.com](http://www.mbyt.com). Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.