

Ameris Bancorp Announces Two Strategically Significant Transactions

Ameris Bancorp (NASDAQ: ABCB; Moultrie, GA; "Ameris") has agreed to acquire Merchants & Southern Banks of Florida, Inc. (Private; Gainesville, FL) for \$50 million in cash and has also agreed to purchase approximately \$812 million in deposit relationships (18 Georgia and Florida branches) from Bank of America Corporation (NYSE: BAC; Charlotte, NC) for a deposit premium of 3.01%. Both transactions are expected to close in Q2 2015.

Sandler O'Neill served as financial advisor to Ameris in connection with both of these transactions. These transactions represent Sandler O'Neill's:

- 62nd bank transaction nationwide since January 1, 2014; more than any other investment bank¹
- 17th bank transaction in the Southeast since January 1, 2014 with an aggregate transaction value of \$2.4 billion; more than any other investment bank¹
- 51st bank branch transaction since January 1, 2011, which total 516 branches and \$27.1 billion in deposits; more than any other investment bank²

About the Merchants & Southern Banks of Florida, Inc. Transaction:

Ameris announced today the signing of a definitive stock purchase agreement under which it has agreed to acquire Merchants & Southern Banks of Florida, Inc. ("Merchants & Southern"), the parent company of Merchants and Southern Bank, Gainesville, Florida. As of December 31, 2014, Merchants & Southern had assets of \$473 million, gross loans of \$214 million and deposits of \$336 million.

The acquisition strengthens Ameris' North Florida franchise by providing entry points into the Gainesville and Ocala markets, as well as further enhancing its presence in the greater Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area.

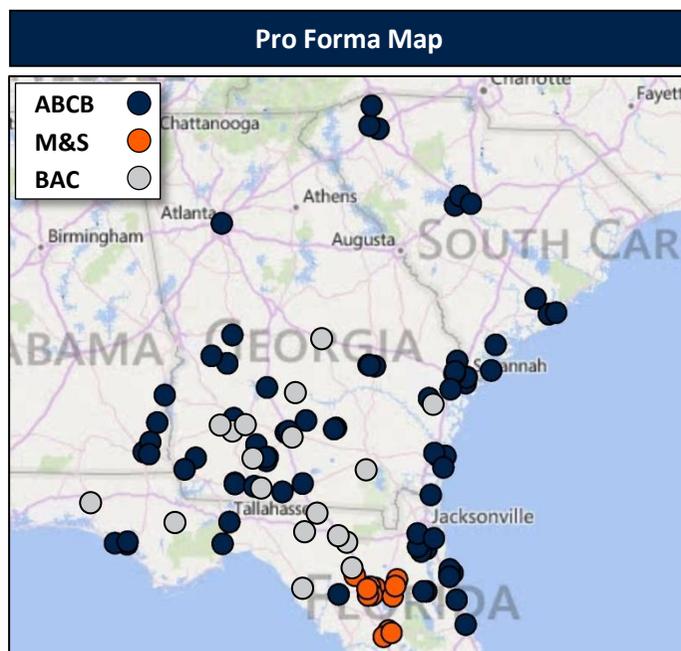
About the Bank of America Branch Transaction:

Ameris announced today the signing of a definitive purchase and assumption agreement under which it has agreed to purchase certain fixed assets and assume the deposits of 18 branches from Bank of America Corporation. Ten of the branches are located in South Georgia and will add approximately \$424 million of deposits, while eight of the branches are located in North Florida and will contribute approximately \$388 million of deposits.

This transaction will strengthen Ameris' Georgia and Florida market presence and provide a low-cost funding source for future growth. The addition of the branches will position Ameris as the largest independent community bank operating in its South Georgia and North Florida footprint.

¹ Source: SNL Financial. Excludes terminated transactions and self-advisory roles

² Source: SNL Financial. Includes all completed and pending branch transactions



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