

First Independence Corporation (OTC Pink: FFSL; Independence, KS) has agreed to merge with Equity Bancshares, Inc. (Wichita, KS)

Deal Value: Not Disclosed

Sandler O'Neill served as financial advisor to First Independence in connection with the transaction. This transaction represents Sandler O'Neill's 86th bank or thrift transaction nationwide since January 1, 2014 representing \$13.9 billion in aggregate transaction value, more than any other investment bank during that time period.¹

WICHITA, Kansas (July 28, 2015) – Equity Bancshares, Inc. ("Equity"), the Wichita-based holding company of Equity Bank, announces its agreement to acquire First Independence Corporation, holding company of First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Independence ("First Independence"), based in Independence, Kansas.

First Independence, with consolidated total assets of \$134 million, operates four branch locations in southeastern Kansas, including offices in Independence, Neodesha, Pittsburg, and Coffeyville, and a mortgage loan production office in Lawrence, Kansas. Equity has \$1.3 billion in consolidated total assets and operates Equity Bank offices in 25 Kansas and Missouri branches, including offices in the Wichita and Kansas City metropolitan areas.

The transaction, expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2015, is subject to receipt of customary regulatory approvals and First Independence shareholder approval. Following the merger, Equity will be comprised of approximately \$1.5 billion in assets and 30 branch offices, including a foothold in southeastern Kansas.

Upon completion of the transaction, First Federal branch locations will be integrated into the Equity Bank network, and customers will have the opportunity to use Equity Bank's full suite of online services, including its mobile app, and debit-card service with no fees on ATM use nationwide.

First Federal Savings and Loan Association was founded in 1905 in Independence, Kansas, and has served primarily consumer customers and residential mortgage customers throughout its 110-year history. Local service and community banking will continue to be a focus of the branches and leaders who remain with Equity.

Financial Highlights

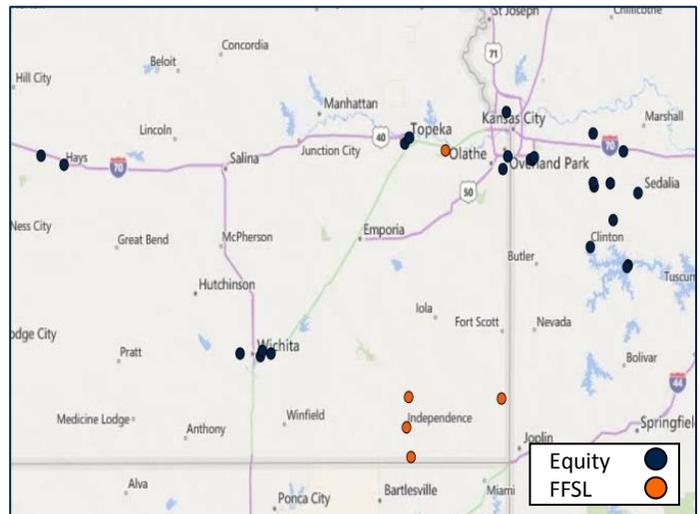
	<u>Equity Bancshares</u>	<u>First Independence</u>
Total Assets	\$1,240	\$137
Net Loans	\$744	\$88
Deposits	\$967	\$94
Equity	\$120	\$14
TCE/TA	7.0%	10.1%

Notes:

Dollars in millions; Financial data as of March 31, 2015

¹Source: SNL Financial; excludes terminated transactions and self-advisory roles

Pro Forma Branch Network



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