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Bank of the West Joins Growing List of Chairmen's RoundTable Sponsors

- Powerful partnership will benefit local companies -

San Diego, CA – February 13, 2006– The Chairmen's RoundTable (CRT), a San Diego-based, non-profit volunteer organization that provides gratis business advice and mentorship to local, private businesses, today announced that Bank of the West, the second largest commercial bank based in California, has joined CRT's growing list of sponsors.

Cyrus Vafi and William Burzynski, Vice Presidents of Bank of the West will act as the bank's representatives to the CRT. "The Chairmen's RoundTable and Bank of the West are an excellent fit," said Vafi. Burzynski added, "CRT provides the advice and guidance management teams need to grow and Bank of the West provides the capital and an extensive array of banking services needed to fuel that growth."

"Our sponsors are doing more than writing a check to support a worthy cause," said Tom Dorosewicz, Chairman of the CRT. "Our sponsors are entering a working partnership with us to help provide local companies with the executive mentoring they need to tackle the strategic issues they face in their business. These partnerships are instrumental to the fulfillment of CRT's mission of strengthening San Diego – one company at a time."

About Chairmen's RoundTable

The Chairmen's RoundTable is a non-profit volunteer organization comprised of 40+ current and former Chief Executive Officers with extensive board of director experience and diverse industry backgrounds. They provide businesses in San Diego County priceless business advice and mentorship free of charge, as a way of giving back to the community. CRT's well-defined mentoring program is ideal for companies at a strategic crossroads that are looking to gain an outside perspective on key business issues. To date, more than 150 local companies have benefited from CRT's mentorship. For more information and to read about past client successes, please visit www.chairmensroundtable.com.

About Bank of the West

Bank of the West, with \$55 billion in assets, is a full service regional bank headquartered in San Francisco, CA, and the second largest commercial bank based in California. Founded in 1874, Bank of the West originates commercial, small business, and consumer loans as well as providing a full range of cash management products, international banking services, interest rate hedging products, and investment services through a network of 680 locations in 19 Western and Midwestern states. The Regional Banking Group in San Diego targets privately held businesses with revenues between \$2 and \$25 million. The Commercial Banking Group targets middle market companies with revenues between \$25 million and \$1 billion. Visit (www.bankofthewest.com) for more information.

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