

NEWS RELEASE

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PR-27-90 (2-16-90)

FDIC CREATES CAPITAL MARKETS SUPERVISORY POST; NAMES WILLIAM A. STARK TO LEAD EFFORT

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation announced today the establishment of a new post within the Division of Supervision to help set policy and provide guidance on insured institutions' involvement with the capital markets.

William A. Stark, formerly senior vice president and chief financial officer of the \$2.7 billion-asset Benjamin Franklin Federal Savings Association, Houston, has joined the FDIC as the Division of Supervision's first Assistant Director for Capital Markets.

As the new Assistant Director, Mr. Stark will help the FDIC Board set policies in areas such as insured institutions' investments in certain assets and originations of debt or equity. Mr. Stark also will work closely with FDIC Regional Offices in their work supervising banks for safety and soundness.

Paul Fritts, Director of the the FDIC's Division of Supervision, said:
"The capital markets are a critical tool for the banking and thrift industries and the U.S. economy. Because these markets are changing and becoming more sophisticated every day, the FDIC decided to create this new position devoted to enhancing our capabilities to advise the FDIC Board of Directors, our Regional Offices and the industry we supervise. We are very pleased to have Bill Stark join the FDIC as the first Assistant Director specializing in the capital markets."

Mr. Stark is a certified public accountant who worked from 1974 to 1980 in St. Louis with the Peat Marwick (now KPMG Peat Marwick) accounting firm,

leaving as an audit manager. For the last 10 years, he has held various positions in the financial services industry in St. Louis, San Francisco and Houston. He has been with Benjamin Franklin since 1986.

Mr. Stark, 41, is a native of St. Louis and a graduate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He also is a veteran of the U.S. Army and a recipient of the Purple Heart for service in Vietnam. Mr. Stark is married and has two children.

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