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### **WASHINGTON BANKERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2019 LEGACY BANKER AWARD HONOREES**

At the 2019 WBA Bankers Convention in July, the Washington Bankers Association announced the inaugural honorees of the Legacy Banker Awards.

The awards were given to retiring bankers, in honor of their contribution to the industry and their work with WBA throughout their careers.

The 2019 honorees were: Cheryl Bishop, Wayne Mannie, Carol Nelson, Hal Russell, and Brian Vance.

“These five bankers demonstrate the diversity of banking talent in the Northwest and it was an honor to celebrate their careers,” said Glen Simecek, WBA President & CEO. “Their leadership will live on in the many bankers and businesses they mentored during their careers.”

Cheryl Bishop, former president & CEO of Skagit Bank, was recognized by Ken Johnson, EVP of Operations at Banner Bank, and Cindy Purcell, EVP of Retail Banking & Administration at Banner Bank. Cheryl’s banking career spans 54 years, beginning with Skagit Bank in 1971. She took over as CEO in 2004 and joined the Banner Bank Board of Directors following the sale of Skagit Bank in 2018. She is a former WBA Board member and is involved in numerous community organizations, including helping organize and fundraise for the new YMCA building in Skagit County.

Wayne Mannie, SVP of Retail Operations at Columbia Bank, retired in June after working in the industry for over 45 years. He was recognized by Dave Lawson, EVP/Human Resources Director at Columbia Bank. He spent over 20 years at Columbia Bank, overseeing the bank’s retail, correspondent and branch banking and was a key leader, helping the bank through 14 acquisitions. Formerly the chair of the WBA PROs board, he is also heavily involved in the community, having served as president of the YMCA, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts and South Sound Care Foundation.

Carol Nelson, who also retired in June, was the Pacific Region Sales Executive and President of the Seattle-Cascades Market for KeyBank. She was recognized by Jay Coleman, SVP/Regional Credit Officer. Carol joined KeyBank in 2015 and prior to that, was a member of Governor Jay Inslee’s Executive Cabinet as the director and CEO of the Department of Revenue. She was president and CEO of Cascade Financial and spent 20 years at Bank of America. She is on the board of United Way of King County, Washington Roundtable, Pacific Coast Banking School and Brooks Running.

Hal Russell, CEO of Commencement Bank, has over 40 years of banking experience and was honored by close friend and colleague, John Manolides, president and COO of Commencement Bank. He began his career in 1977 and has worked in almost every area of the bank. He was executive vice president and chief credit officer at Columbia Bank until 2004, before starting Commencement Bank in 2006. He received the University of Washington Tacoma Milgard School of Business Leadership Award in 2014

and is an active member in Red Cross, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts of America, Pediatric Interim Care Center and more.

Brian Vance, formerly the CEO of Heritage Financial, retired in July and was honored by Jeff Deuel, president & CEO of Heritage Bank. He spent 48 years working in the industry, starting as a teller after graduating from high school. He spent 24 years working at West One Bank in Idaho, before moving to transfer to Tacoma. After the bank sold, he joined Heritage as chief credit officer and became president & COO in 1998, CEO in 2003 and CEO of the company in 2006. He is a member of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and Pierce County Economic Development Board, as well as a South Puget Sound Community College trustee.

*Started in 2019, the Legacy Banker Award recognizing bankers from Washington state for their impact on the industry and work with the WBA.*

*Founded in 1889, the Washington Bankers Association is Washington State's largest financial services trade association, representing more than 80 member commercial banks operating in every county of the state.*

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