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First Western Trust Bank announces addition of Reber Russell Company

**First Western Trust Bank exceeds \$1 billion
in assets under management with newest addition**

DENVER (September 29, 2006) – First Western Trust Bank announced today that Reber Russell Company, a Colorado-based registered investment advisory firm, will merge its operations with the bank, effective September 29, 2006. The addition of Reber Russell Company increases First Western’s assets under management to more than \$1 billion, while further expanding the bank’s reach into western US markets including Boulder, Colorado and Los Angeles, California.

“It’s a tremendous pleasure to welcome Reber Russell Company into First Western Trust Bank and to expand our opportunity to provide what we believe is the finest wealth management service in the nation,” said Scott Wylie, First Western’s chairman. Warren Olsen, First Western’s vice chairman and chief investment officer, agreed. “Our investment philosophies are much the same,” Olsen added, “allowing our respective clients to benefit from an even greater depth of experience, knowledge, and capability which our expanded organization will offer.”

“Our entire team is looking forward to contributing to First Western Trust Bank’s innovations in wealth management,” said Bryant Reber of Reber Russell Company. “On its own, Reber Russell Company has achieved a great deal in serving our clients’ needs for investment management, and now with First Western we have the opportunity to make that service even broader including private banking, trust operations, and other complementary wealth management services.”

First Western Trust Bank has established itself as a leader in the wealth management industry in the western United States. With the addition of Reber Russell Company, First Western has offices in downtown Denver, Cherry Creek, Fort Collins, and Boulder. Early in 2007, First Western plans to open an Arizona-chartered private bank and trust company in Scottsdale, followed thereafter by further expansion in Los Angeles.

About First Western Trust Bank

Founded by Scott Wylie and Warren Olsen, First Western Trust Bank is the only locally owned, regionally focused private bank and trust company based in the Rocky Mountain region. As a private bank, First Western combines the services of large financial institutions in four key integrated areas: private banking, investment management, personal trust and family office. As proven leaders in the financial services industry, First Western's team of professionals is committed to delivering focused, industry-leading service through flexible, cutting-edge integrated technology. Headquartered in Denver, with offices in Fort Collins, Cherry Creek, and now Boulder, First Western is owned by its senior management and over 100 prominent individual shareholders, primarily from Colorado. For more information, please visit www.fwtb.com or call 303.531.8100.

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