



NEWS RELEASE

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Forbes: Provident Among Nation's Best Banks

NJ community bank makes nationwide list

JERSEY CITY, NJ – For the second year in a row, The Provident Bank made the *Forbes* [list](#) of the best banks in America.

Provident, New Jersey's oldest state chartered bank, ranked in the top 50 among larger, national institutions, with nearly \$7 billion in assets and a 2.3 percent non-performing loan ratio.

For Chris Martin, Provident's president and CEO, the ranking was a validation of the bank's strength and stability.

"We're honored by this prestigious recognition," he said. "Since its founding, Provident has operated under prudent banking principles, which has given us the ability to withstand the most difficult economic times. This is a testament to Provident's stability, capabilities and strengths. We're proud to be recognized among national contenders in our industry."

The list included banks ranging in size from \$4.7 billion to \$2.3 trillion in assets. In measuring the performance of the best banks, *Forbes* relied on SNL Financial, a research firm based in Charlottesville, Va. The rankings were determined based on eight measures, including the banks' return on equity, net interest margin and percentage of non-performing loans to total loans.

For more information about Provident, visit www.ProvidentNJ.com or call 800-448-PROV (7768).

About The Provident Bank

With \$4.9 billion in deposits, The Provident Bank (www.ProvidentNJ.com) serves its customers via a network of more than 80 branches throughout northern and central New

Jersey. The Provident Bank is the wholly owned subsidiary of Provident Financial Services, Inc. (NYSE:PFS), which reported assets of \$6.8 billion as of December 31, 2010.

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