

People in Business

First Mid appoints Lewis as new COO



Mandy Lewis

First Mid Bank & Trust recently announced the appointment of Mandy Lewis as its new executive vice president (EVP), chief operations officer. Lewis is making a transition from her previous role as EVP, chief deposit services officer within the organization, demonstrating First Mid's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering growth from within.

Lewis assumes the role previously held by Laurel Allenbaugh, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Having played a crucial role in driving growth and success in the organization's deposit services division, Lewis possesses a keen understanding of customer needs, operational efficiency, and technological advancements in the financial sector.

With over 22 years of invaluable banking industry experience, her expertise in marketing, deep product knowledge, and leadership in deposit customer service efforts position her well for Operations in today's dynamic banking environment.

In her new role, Lewis will oversee all operational functions of First Mid, including deposits, loans, and facilities. She will focus on driving excellence, process optimization, and enhancing customer experiences. Collaborating closely with fellow executive leadership, department heads, and cross-functional teams, Lewis will ensure seamless operations and alignment with strategic goals.

Lewis began her career with First Mid in 2001. She holds a bachelor's degree in marketing communications from Eastern Illinois University and is a graduate of the ABA Bank Marketing and Management School. Lewis was a member of the Mattoon Charleston Journal-Gazette's 2011 Class of 20 Under 40 and has been recognized by the Illinois Business Journal as a Rising Star for career accomplishments. In 2013, she received the Chairman's Award for Excellence, the highest honor an associate can receive at First Mid. Lewis serves several community organizations, currently sitting on the Eastern Illinois Business Advisory Board and the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation Board. In addition, she is a past board member of Mid-Illinois Big Brothers Big Sisters.

First Bank taps Williamson to succeed Seifert as CEO

First Bank CEO Shelley Seifert will retire at the end of the year after nine years with First Bank, the bank of choice for family-owned businesses. Mikel Williamson, an industry veteran, will join First Bank as president and her successor.

Seifert joined First Bank in 2014 and became CEO in May 2019. She informed the board of directors in late 2022 of her plans to retire. After an extensive search, the board selected Williamson to succeed her. Over the coming months, First Bank will work to transition Williamson into his new leadership role.

Williamson served as President and CEO of Happy State Bank & Trust before its sale in 2022 and stayed on after the merger to oversee the bank's Texas market, representing approximately \$6 billion in assets and over 60 locations in more than 40 communities across the state. Prior to his 10-year stint at Happy State, Williamson had a variety of senior roles at Capital One, J.P. Morgan, and Bank of America.

Seifert's accomplishments include refining the bank's vision and strategic plan, building a strong operating and technology foundation for growth, enhancing services for family-owned businesses, and building a strong team. Seifert first served as executive vice president and chief administrative officer and was promoted to COO in August 2015. Prior to her position at First Bank, Seifert served as executive vice president of integrations and operations at PNC Financial Services in Pittsburgh.

Centerstone selects Thomason as regional COO for Illinois



Jennifer Thomason

Centerstone has selected Jennifer Thomason as its regional COO for Illinois, effective Aug. 7, 2023.

Thomason has nearly 20 years of behavioral healthcare experience, having recently served as chief clinical officer at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center in Springfield, Ill. Previously, she worked for the Sinnissippi Centers Inc. in Dixon, Ill., as a therapist, residential manager, director of Adult Services, and finally as senior director of Outpatient Services, facilitating the organizational transition to a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic.

A licensed clinical professional counselor, Thomason received her master's degree in counseling from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She also received an MBA from the University of Southern Indiana with a focus in healthcare administration. Thomason is a former member of the Community Behavioral Health Association and Illinois Health Practice Alliance Clinical Operations Committee.

Baker Sterchi adds O'Connor as new attorney in Belleville



Emily O'Connor

Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice recently announced the addition of Emily O'Connor as a new attorney in Belleville. O'Connor has joined the firm as an associate. Her practice focuses on representing railroads in Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) cases and handling nursing home litigation for facilities, nurses and staff.

She is an accomplished litigator with a successful track record of secur-

ing numerous dismissals and transfers of railroad occupational disease matters through motion practice. Additionally, O'Connor has achieved multiple dismissals in FELA negligence and premises liability cases involving railroad occupational disease matters. She is a member of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel.

O'Connor earned her law degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law and holds an undergraduate degree from Baylor University. She is admitted to practice law in both Illinois and Missouri.

Cornatzer named S. M. Wilson interim president



Rebecca Cornatzer

S. M. Wilson & Co. has named Rebecca Cornatzer as interim president following the departure of Amy Berg. Cornatzer has twenty years of management experience in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. She currently serves as the firm's chief human resources officer and has been with S. M. Wilson since 2017.

S. M. Wilson's core leadership team established in 2019, will remain in place. In addition to Cornatzer, the firm will be led and managed by four additional executive committee members Mark Cochran, chief operating officer; Mike Mangiore, chief financial officer; Steve Meeks, vice president of Pre-Construction and Estimating and Amanda Bohnert, chief marketing officer. Earlier this year, S. M. Wilson strengthened its leadership team by adding three directors of Operations: Kerry Lorts, Jason Gasawski and Patrick Aylesworth.

S. M. Wilson will be conducting an extensive search for the next president.

Armstrong Teasdale's Quinn named as managing attorney in Edwardsville



Untress Quinn

Armstrong Teasdale has named Partner Untress (Trez) Quinn as managing attorney of the firm's Edwardsville office. Quinn is a seasoned trial lawyer, focusing his practice on representing clients in disciplinary hearings in health care and educational settings, health care internal investigations, and the defense of medical malpractice and other catastrophic loss lawsuits. He has defended multiple complex litigation cases in both state and federal courts involving civil rights, product liability, medical malpractice and wrongful death claims.

Prior to joining Armstrong Teasdale, Quinn spent roughly 15 years in private practice at St. Louis area law firms, most recently leading his prior firm's Correctional Medicine industry team. His depth of experience in the medical field is rooted in more than

25 years in the health care industry and more than 10 years as a registered nurse. Quinn was also a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserves for 13 years, where he achieved the rank of first lieutenant and was awarded the Meritorious Service Award.

He is a 2022 Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD); Diversity Committee Chair for the Illinois Association for Defense Trial Lawyers; and former board secretary of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL). He is also a member of the St. Clair County Bar Association, American Bar Association and American Health Lawyers Association. Further, Quinn is a Hearing Board Member of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois. He also sits on the board of directors for the St. Clair County Child Advocacy Center.

Challenge Unlimited appoints Malone, Arrindell as new board members



Geri Lynn Arrindell

Challenge Unlimited (CU), a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Alton, Ill., recently announced the appointment of two new members to its board of directors.

Alton resident Bruce Malone, a leader in education and the community, was appointed to the CU board of directors in March for a three-year term. A retired educator, his leadership experience includes a 10-year term as the vice president of the board of the Illinois Federation of Teachers and



Bruce Malone

serving on the board of directors for Madison County and the Alton Housing Authority. Malone also served as president of the Staunton (Ill.) Federation of Teachers. As a parent of a daughter with Down Syndrome, Malone has an affinity for CU's mission.

Geri Lynn Arrindell, a licensed attorney in Illinois and Missouri with the law firm Mickes O'Toole, joined CU's board of directors in May for a three-year term. A resident of University City, Mo., she is also general counsel for the organization. Arrindell's legal experience includes serving as litigation counsel to various entities including nonprofit organizations. Her background also includes arbitrations and administrative proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board and the Illinois Labor Relations Board. Prior to earning her law degree, Arrindell was a licensed clinical social worker with Hope, a nonprofit agency headquartered in Springfield, Ill. In addition to being its intake coordinator and program director for community-based programs, she was also instrumental in acquiring and opening several group homes. ■