

**OCEAN BANK HIRES THREE BANKING OFFICERS**

**MIAMI, FL – Feb. 28, 2008** – Ocean Bank has added three officers to its staff. Pedro Max joined the bank as senior vice president, Director of Special Assets; Paul Harrison as senior vice president, Chief Appraiser; and John Akiti as vice president, Branch Manager I.

“Ocean Bank continues to attract top executives in the banking industry,” said Alfonso Macedo, Ocean Bank’s President and CEO. “All three, Max, Harrison and Akiti, bring invaluable experience to us and will contribute to Ocean Bank’s continued success and growth into the future.”

Max has 15 years of banking experience. As senior vice president of Special Assets, he will be responsible for reviewing and managing non-performing loans, overdrafts, and disposition of real estate properties. He will also provide strategic leadership and guidance to the special assets manager and team of workout specialists.

Prior to joining Ocean Bank, Max was with Citibank-Commercial Group, managing their Classified Asset Department. He was awarded the Citibank CitiStar Sales/Service award in 2002 for excellence in sales and service. Max has a Business Administration degree from American Intercontinental University/William Paterson College.

Harrison will manage appraisal functions for Ocean Bank, which includes selecting independent appraisers for each loan and real property assets. He will be in charge of reviewing appraisal results and the analysis and monitoring of strengths and weaknesses of the real estate market where the bank lends.

Harrison, who has 30 years experience in appraisal of all property types, has been awarded both the MAI designation bestowed by the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) real estate designation. Prior to joining Ocean Bank, he was an independent contractor for several firms, operated his own firm, Appraisal Advisory Associates, and acquired income properties as a partner with McGuire Properties. Harrison holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Akiti will be responsible for managing Ocean Bank’s Weston branch and two other satellite branches with the help of the operations officer and all supervisors, overseeing the lending and deposit gatherings for the branch, helping and advising the main branch officers with their underwriting, and with managing the personal and depository loan portfolio.

Akiti, who has over 20 years of experience, was with National City prior to joining Ocean Bank. There he was branch manager and vice president, focusing on business development of prospective customer calling efforts and cross-sell other bank products and services. Akiti has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Barry University.

Ocean Bank is the largest independent commercial bank chartered and headquartered in Florida, with \$5.6 billion in assets. Chartered in 1982, Ocean Bank operates a network of 21 branches throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The community bank has received numerous awards and accolades from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, The Beacon Council and the Florida Department of Education, among others, for its support of our South Florida communities. For more information, log on to [www.oceanbank.com](http://www.oceanbank.com).

###