

# COMMERCE STREET *Capital*

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## **Commerce Street Capital Earns M&A Award for Advisory Role in the Merger of Two Community Banks**

**DALLAS (May 10, 2013)** — Commerce Street Capital, LLC (“CSC”), was honored at the Dallas Business Journal and Association for Corporate Growth Dallas/Fort Worth (ACG) annual M&A Awards event held on May 9 at Three Three Three First Avenue. CSC was awarded as the winner of the Midsize deal (\$50M to \$100M) category for its exceptional advisory work in the acquisition of Highlands Bancshares Inc. (“Highlands”) by ViewPoint Financial Group Inc. This announcement was made by Dory Wiley, President and CEO of Commerce Street Holdings, LLC (the holding company for CSC).

A panel of Dallas/Fort Worth industry experts reviewed entries that closed within the 2012 calendar year and looked for exemplary transactions that have had community impact, defied the odds or required extra creativity to seal the deal. Top deals and dealmakers in the North Texas mergers and acquisitions world were honored at the event and in a special section published on May 10 in the Dallas Business Journal.

CSC played a key role in an innovative merger between two community banks: Dallas-based Highlands (\$508 million in assets) and Plano-based ViewPoint Financial Group (\$3.2 billion in assets) (NASDAQ: VPFQ). CSC was the financial advisor for Highlands.

The merger is exceptional because:

- The CEO of Highlands became CEO of the combined entity.
- It provided Highlands shareholders with a liquid stock and a larger platform on which to execute their business plan, driving greater value for the combined company’s shareholders than could have been achieved individually.
- It created a combined franchise that ranks ninth in the DFW Metroplex overall and is the fourth largest locally operated bank.

The deal involved strategic and creative negotiations between all parties including CSC’s Managing Director C.K. Lee and Vice President Brian Johnson, both from the firm’s Financial Institutions Group, and Chairman of Commerce Street Holdings William D. “Tex” Gross.

CSC was previously honored in 2012 at the Dallas Business Journal and ACG annual M&A Awards. The firm was named the winner in the Small Deal (under \$50 million) category for its exceptional work on an acquisition of a community bank as well as a \$16.4 million capital raise.

### **About Commerce Street Capital**

Commerce Street Capital, LLC (“CSC”) is a private investment banking firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Led by veterans of the banking industry, CSC specializes in investment banking services (mergers and acquisitions, valuations and regulatory issue advising) and bank development (on-site consulting and management of capital raising, market assessments, application development, board of director placement). The firm

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*Photos and interviews available*