

**HOWE BARNES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
OUR RECENT ADVISORY TRANSACTION**



*has signed a definitive agreement
to be acquired by*



Pending April 2007

**Howe Barnes acted as financial advisor to
Desert Community Bank in this transaction.**

Desert Community Bank, Victorville, California, has signed a definitive agreement to merge with and into East West Bancorp, Inc., Pasadena, California. Under the terms of the definitive agreement, East West will acquire the outstanding shares of Desert Community for \$24.00 per share. The shareholders of Desert Community will receive 55% of the merger consideration in shares of East West common stock and the remainder in cash. At announcement, the aggregate transaction value is \$148.2 million.

The acquisition is expected to close in the third quarter of 2007, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

INVESTMENT BANKING

Deal Pricing	
Transaction Value:	\$148.2 million
Price / LTM Earnings:	21.7x
Price / Book:	264%
Price / Tangible Book:	264%
Price / Assets:	27.85%
Core Deposit Premium:	21.99%

*Financials as of 12/31/06

Financial Highlights		
	<u>DCBK</u>	<u>EWBC</u>
Total Assets (\$000)	531,984	10,823,711
Total Equity (\$000)	56,017	1,019,390
Equity / Assets	10.53%	9.42%
ROAA	1.23%	1.46%
ROAE	12.99%	15.78%

SOURCE: SNL Financial

INVESTMENT BANKING CONTACTS:

Dan Coughlin
(312) 655-2957

Steve Didion
(415) 538-5720

Brian Ytterberg
(312) 655-2979

Ken Lovik
(312) 655-2983

Tom Lynch
(312) 655-2980

Tom Maier
(312) 655-2977

Tom Mecredy
(512) 495-9890

John Schramm
(919) 424-0102

Bill Wagner
(919) 424-0101