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## **Midwest BankCentre's Ashley O'Neal Continues to Rack Up the Accolades as American Banker Names her one of The Most Powerful Women in Banking**

ST. LOUIS (August 2, 2023) --- Midwest BankCentre's leadership team is garnering national attention. [American Banker Magazine](#) has named **Ashley O'Neal**, senior vice president-retail banking at [Midwest BankCentre](#), one of The Most Powerful Women in Banking. *American Banker*'s 2023 NEXT Award recognizes 15 high-achieving women in banking who are on the path to becoming C-suite leaders of tomorrow and who are under 40 years of age. This award comes directly on top of another national award six months ago, when *BankBeat* named O'Neal one of the [2022 Outstanding Women in Banking](#).



O'Neal counts among her accomplishments her work to build one of the banking industry's strongest and most diverse retail teams. She oversees all 16 of Midwest BankCentre's branches and more than 80 retail employees, or nearly 30% of the Bank's staff. In 2021, O'Neal recognized that her team must evolve to continue to add value to clients and for Midwest BankCentre to remain competitive. The goal was to help her team become trusted advisors by creating a more well-rounded, effective, and cross-trained workforce.

“We are honored that American Banker has recognized Ashley among this group of female leaders in the banking industry,” said **Danny Pogue**, president of commercial, retail, and small-business banking at Midwest BankCentre. “Ashley has taken her organization from thinking and acting as ‘order takers’ to serving their clients as trusted advisors, representing a major shift in our organization. Through her hard work, skilled leadership, and customer-centric focus, her team continues to meet and exceed the Bank’s retail goals and customer experience goals.”

The award also recognizes O’Neal’s contributions to the St. Louis community. A lifelong St. Louis resident, she is active in her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. She served as chapter president during COVID and sat on the board of the group’s local foundation, which funds economic security, financial literacy, health care, and children’s programs in the area. She also enjoys mentoring young people.

American Banker will recognize this year’s honorees in New York City at the NEXT Awards dinner on October 3, 2023. That celebration is part of a trio of events, including THE MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN BANKING conference on October 3-4 and the invitation-only gala on October 5.

### ***About Midwest BankCentre***

Midwest BankCentre's current assets exceed \$2.5 billion and deposits total more than \$2 billion. A mainstay of the greater St. Louis community banking scene since 1906, the Bank employs a staff of about 280 working at 16 bank locations in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties in Missouri and a loan production office in St. Clair County in Illinois. It empowers people, enables business and energizes neighborhoods through the strength of its financial services, including personalized consumer and business banking, business cash management, mortgage lending, home equity loans, financial planning and investments, insurance and digital banking.

Midwest BankCentre is a local leader in the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition (formerly the St. Louis Regional Unbanked Task Force) and its Bank-On Save-Up St. Louis initiative. Since 2001, Midwest BankCentre has consecutively achieved the Bauer Financial 5-Star Superior financial rating each quarter. It has been recognized for its success in bringing mainstream financial services to unbanked and underbanked citizens in the region and other diversity and inclusion contributions with the 2019 Community Commitment Award from the American Bankers Association Foundation and the 2018 National Community Bank Service Award from the Independent Community Bankers of America.

### ***About American Banker***

American Banker empowers banking professionals with unique analysis and insight into the ideas transforming their business and industry. Across its journalism, events, research, and benchmarking, it helps drive the way forward through the complexity of business innovation, retail and commercial disruption, technology, regulation, and reform. With a banking community 850K strong, American Banker's transformative content connects leaders online, in person and in print every day.