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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Bankers Association Promotes Johnston and Nika

SPRINGFIELD, IL (October 31, 2018) – The Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) is pleased to announce the promotion of **Valerie Johnston** as senior vice president of communications. She replaces **Andrea Cooney Cusick** who retired from that position, effective October 31.

Johnston was hired in July of 2002 as a vice president in the CBAI department of education and special events. She holds a B.A. degree in communications from Quincy University and a master's degree in communications from University of Illinois-Springfield.

Jennifer Nika will replace Johnston as vice president of education and special events. Nika has been with CBAI in the department of education and special events for eight years.

"I congratulate Valerie and Jennifer on their well-deserved promotions," CBAI President and CEO Kraig Lounsberry said. "Obviously, we are going to miss Andrea, but with Valerie moving up the transition will be seamless, and CBAI will not miss a beat. Her education and experience have her well prepared to lead our communications department. Jennifer will also hit the ground running in her new role. Her knowledge and experience with CBAI programs and events make her the perfect choice to move into this position."

About CBAI

One of the largest state banking associations in the nation, CBAI is a professional trade association representing 320 Illinois commercial banks and thrifts, and their 880 Illinois bank branches. Its members have nearly \$80 billion in assets and employ approximately 16,000 individuals. CBAI, headquartered in Springfield, was founded in 1974 to exclusively represent and serve the community-banking profession. For more information, visit www.cbai.com.