



CBA & WIB ARE DIVISIONS OF THE
WESTERN BANKERS ASSOCIATION

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California Bankers Association and the Western Independent Bankers Finalize Merger to Create Western Bankers Association

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (January 3, 2018) — The [California Bankers Association](#) (CBA) and [Western Independent Bankers](#) (WIB) announced today that the official merger of the two organizations has been completed. The combined organization will now begin to operate under the name the Western Bankers Association (WBA). Last fall, members of both associations voted nearly unanimously to approve the merger, which was official on January 1, 2018. With more than 200 years of combined experience serving banks in the West, the WBA now serves nearly 200 members.

“Together we are a stronger association, and this merger enables us to be a more efficient and effective resource for our member banks,” said WBA President and CEO Simone Lagomarsino. “The new association continues the legacy of providing bankers throughout California with exceptional advocacy resources at the state and federal legislative and regulatory levels, while expanding conference offerings and educational opportunities to banking professionals throughout 13 western states and U.S. territories.”

With the merger complete, the WIB has officially merged into CBA, and CBA has changed its name to the Western Bankers Association (WBA). Both names — the “California Bankers Association” and the “Western Independent Bankers” as well as their respective areas of professional focus have been retained by WBA. Furthermore, CBA and WIB now operate as divisions of WBA. The CBA division remains focused on state, federal and regulatory advocacy activities, and the WIB division, which is led by the WIB’s former president and CEO, Michael Delucchi, continues to offer dynamic conferences, training seminars, more than 250 webinars and enhanced education for member banks. Conferences that have historically been offered by the CBA are now marketed and delivered by the WIB division of the WBA.



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“Both CBA and WIB had a common mission of educating and connecting bankers to help them achieve the best standards of personal and organizational excellence,” said Delucchi, who is now an SVP with the Western Bankers Association and the executive director of the WIB division. “With this merger, we will be stronger and even better positioned to continue to deliver professional development programs of the highest quality to our members.”

CBA’s former board of directors will now be the WBA board of directors, and CBA’s most recent chair, Kathie Sowa, (commercial banking market executive and market president of the greater Sacramento region for Bank of America Merrill Lynch), has assumed the role of chair for the WBA board of directors. In addition, the WBA board of directors has expanded to include six former WIB board members, including WIB’s most recent chairman, David Joves, (SVP of the California region for Bank of Guam), who has also joined the WBA executive committee.

CBA’s legal counsel in the transaction was provided by Manatt, Phelps, & Phillips, LLP. WIB was advised by Stinson Leonard Street LLP.

About the Western Bankers Association

With more than 200 years of combined experience serving banks, the Western Bankers Association is one of the largest, state-banking, trade associations and regional educational organizations in the United States. WBA provides leading service and support to member banks throughout the Western States through two divisions.

CBA, the California state and federal advocacy division, is the advocate of the California banking industry for needed legislative, regulatory and legal changes. For more information, visit www.calbankers.com.

WIB, the professional development division, provides education and training, and supports several hundred community banks headquartered in the 13 Western States by informing, educating, and connecting more than 20,000 bankers. For more information, visit www.wib.org.