



NEWS RELEASE

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
St. Louis Little Rock Louisville Memphis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 1996

ST. LOUIS — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the application of The Belknap Partnership, L.P., Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to become a bank holding company through the acquisition of at least 32.15 percent of the voting shares of Bootheel Bancorp, Inc., Malden, Missouri, and thereby indirectly acquire a controlling interest in Bootheel Bancorp Inc.'s wholly owned subsidiary, First Community Bank, Bernie, Missouri.

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