



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 17, 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 Mercantile Bancorporation Inc., St. Louis, Missouri ("MBI"), to indirectly acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of First Financial Corporation of America, Salem, Missouri ("First Financial"), thereby indirectly acquiring First Financial's wholly owned subsidiary, First National Bank of Salem, Salem, Missouri.

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