



NEWS RELEASE

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

For release:
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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 notifications by Area Bancshares Corporation, Owensboro, Kentucky, to acquire 100 percent of the outstanding voting shares of Cardinal Bancshares, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky (Cardinal), thereby indirectly acquiring Cardinal's four subsidiary banks and one thrift subsidiary.

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