



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Security Bank Wins Architectural Design in Best of Community Banking Competition**

Midland, TX—Security Bank recently submitted an entry to the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) Best of Community Banking (BOCB) Awards competition in the architectural design category. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year that IBAT will celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of community banks in Texas with the BOCB Award. Security Bank was awarded the Gold Award in Architectural Design for their Billy Hext Branch in Odessa. The BOCB Award was designed to honor banks for their commitment to helping their neighbors.

The annual Best of Community Banking Awards recognize community banks throughout the state for their innovation and creativity, and success in fulfilling a specific community need. Each submission will receive a gold, silver or bronze award in one of four categories: architectural design, financial literacy, community service and marketing.

The Billy Hext branch was designed by Scott Clanton with MG Architects of Houston, TX with the help of Security Bank's Chairman, James Thomas and President, Jim Smitherman. The Billy Hext branch was built with the intention to create a new Hub Branch for the Odessa Market anchored to the West Texas region that would be a location to serve both customers and employees through expanded amenities for meetings and trainings. The design and layout of the branch reflect the bank's independent spirit and West Texas roots and appeal to customers for an inviting space to conduct banking business.

"We are committed to our customers and community by offering them exceptional service when working with Security Bank. I know with the addition of our Billy Hext Branch, we have been able to touch many customers and help them with the growth of their business," stated Jim Smitherman, President of Security Bank.

All BOCB gold, silver and bronze entries will be on display during the IBAT Annual Convention in Galveston, September 19-22, 2015. Additionally, gold award winners will be recognized at the Best of Community Banking Awards Luncheon on September 21.

**About the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT)**

Formed in 1974, the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) represents Texas community banks. The Austin-based group is the largest state community banking organization in the nation, with membership comprised of more than 2,000 banks and branches in 700 Texas communities. Providing safe and responsible financial services to all Texans, IBAT member bank assets range in size from \$10 million to more than \$20 billion with combined assets statewide of nearly \$165 billion. IBAT member banks are committed to supporting and investing in their local communities.