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First Bank of the Lake's Chief Payments Officer, Ana Liza Grandner, Wins Innovative Banker of the Year Award from the American Fintech Council

The American Fintech Council (AFC), the premier association for responsible fintech companies and innovative banks, has named Ana Liza Grandner, Chief Payments Officer at First Bank of the Lake, its 2025 Innovative Banker of the Year. Awarded at the ninth annual AFC Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., this award recognizes leaders who advance responsible innovation and expand access to consumer-centric financial services.

"We are proud to recognize this year's AFC Award recipients for their commitment to financial inclusion and consumer protection," said Phil Goldfeder, CEO of the American Fintech Council. "Their leadership is shaping the future of products, services, and policies that help millions of people manage their financial lives."

Grandner was selected for her work strengthening the bridge between traditional banking and modern financial technology. She leads First Bank of the Lake's payments, digital banking, and embedded finance strategy, building compliant, scalable solutions that help fintech partners better serve underserved communities.

"It is truly an honor to receive this recognition from the American Fintech Council," said Grandner. "In a rapidly changing financial services ecosystem, it's crucial to look for innovative and responsible ways to serve customers while remaining grounded in your mission. For us, that means building scalable fintech partnerships that deliver seamless and compliant digital banking capabilities that reach underserved consumer segments and fuel growth across communities."

"Ana Liza's leadership continues to elevate First Bank of the Lake as a trusted partner for responsible fintech innovation," said Jim Larrick, Chairman, President & CEO. "Her strategic vision has strengthened our digital capabilities and expanded our ability to support customers and communities nationwide. We are proud to celebrate her achievement."

****About First Bank of the Lake****

First Bank of the Lake, headquartered in Osage Beach, Missouri, has been meeting the financial needs of individuals and businesses since 1985. The bank offers a full range of deposit products and services, along with consumer, residential mortgage, and commercial lending. As a nationwide Small Business Administration (SBA) lender, First Bank of the Lake financed more than \$600 million in SBA loans over the past 12 months and is ranked as the 15th largest SBA lender in the United States in 2024.

****About American Fintech Council (AFC)****

The American Fintech Council (AFC) is the leading standards-based trade association representing the nation's top fintech companies and innovative banks offering embedded finance solutions. AFC promotes a transparent, inclusive, and customer-centric financial system by supporting responsible innovation and sound public policy. <https://www.fintechcouncil.org/>

NOTE TO EDITOR: For legal purposes Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender must be included in the published announcement.