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September 22, 2017
For Immediate Release

First Bankers Trustshares, Inc. Announces Settlement in Department of Labor Litigation

Quincy, Illinois – First Bankers Trustshares, Inc. announced today a settlement involving its subsidiary, First Bankers Trust Services, Inc. (Trust Services).

After more than five years of litigation, Trust Services and the US Department of Labor (DOL) have reached an agreement to settle the Maran case filed by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Trust Services and the DOL have also agreed to settle the SJP and Rembar cases pending approval by the Judges overseeing those cases. All three of these cases involved the DOL disputing the valuation of private company stock of the sponsoring company sold to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). These underlying transactions occurred more than 10 years ago.

“I am pleased that Trust Services can now move forward. As part of the Maran settlement, Trust Services and the DOL entered into a process agreement that addresses the DOL’s concerns relating to how valuations are determined in connection with ESOP transactions,” said Brian Ippensen, president of Trust Services. “All settlement amounts will be paid from Trust Services insurance proceeds and corporate reserves.”

Trust Services, a provider of fiduciary services, and First Bankers Trust Company, N.A., a commercial bank, are subsidiaries of First Bankers Trustshares, Inc.

Both subsidiaries are separate legal entities. The settlement does not affect any banking activities, bank deposits, or involve the regulators of First Bankers Trust Company, N.A.

With the settlement of Maran and the anticipated settlement approvals in the SJP and Rembar cases, Trust Services has agreed to contribute \$1.5 million in settlement of these cases. Thus, First Bankers Trustshares, Inc. expects to incur a one-time, gross charge of approximately \$0.49 per share in the third quarter of 2017.

This press release may contain forward-looking statements as defined by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements present management’s expectations, beliefs, plans and objectives regarding future financial performance, and assumptions or judgments concerning such performance. Any discussions contained in this press release, except to the extent that they contain historical facts, are forward-looking and accordingly involve estimates, assumptions, judgments and uncertainties. There are a number of factors that could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those addressed in the forward-looking statements.

About First Bankers Trustshares, Inc.

First Bankers Trustshares, Inc. is the holding company for First Bankers Trust Company, N.A., and First Bankers Trust Services, Inc. The company was incorporated on August 25, 1988, and is headquartered in Quincy, Ill. First Bankers Trustshares, Inc. common stock trades over-the-counter under the symbol “FBTT”. For more information, visit <http://fbti.firstbankers.com>.

About First Bankers Trust Services, Inc



Headquartered in Quincy, Ill., First Bankers Trust Services, Inc, is an independent trust company, serving more than 70,000 plan participants throughout the U.S. and distributing more than \$300 million in retirement benefits annually.

Serving individual and institutional clients for more than 50 years, First Bankers Trust Services, Inc, through its team of experienced financial, legal and administrative professionals, provides ESOP/Employee Benefits, Personal Trust and Farm Services. With more than \$9 billion in managed assets, the company serves clients nationwide. For more information, visit <https://www.fbtservices.com>.

About First Bankers Trust Company, N.A.

Headquartered in Quincy, Ill., First Bankers Trust Company, N.A., is a community-oriented commercial bank offering a variety of financial services to meet the needs of the communities it serves, including personal banking, residential mortgage loans, consumer loans, small business loan and agricultural loans. The bank has branch locations in Quincy, Macomb, Mendon, Carthage, Rushville, and Springfield, Illinois, with a market presence in adjacent counties in Illinois and Missouri. For more information, visit <https://www.firstbankers.com>.