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Comptroller of the Currency  
Administrator of National Banks

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Central District Office  
440 South LaSalle, Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

**Conditional Approval #421  
November 2000**

October 24, 2000

Mr. Dennis R. Wendte  
Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum Perlman & Nagelberg  
333 West Wacker Drive,  
Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Mr. Wendte:

OCC Control No: 00-CE-01-0013

The Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has reviewed your application to establish a new national bank, with the title of *Advantage National Bank*. On October 24, 2000, after a thorough evaluation of all data available to the OCC, we found that your proposal met the requirements for preliminary conditional approval. Your request for a branch is also conditionally approved. The bank also may offer credit life, health, and accident insurance in accordance with 12 CFR 2.

This approval is granted based on a thorough review of all information available, including the representations and commitments made in the application and by the proposed bank's representatives. We also made our decision to grant preliminary conditional approval with the understanding that the proposed national bank will apply for membership in the Federal Reserve System and obtain FDIC insurance.

This approval is subject to the condition that the bank shall provide the OCC's Chicago West Field Office at least thirty days prior notice of any significant deviations or changes from the proposed operating plan during the bank's first three years of operation. This condition is enforceable under 12 U.S. C. 1818. The bank must also provide a copy of such notice to the FDIC's Chicago Regional Office.

Please refer to the "Corporate Organization" booklet in the *Comptroller's Corporate Manual* for the instructions on organizing your bank. The booklet contains all of the steps you must take to receive your charter. As detailed in the booklet, you may establish the corporate existence of and begin organizing the bank as soon as you adopt and forward acceptable Articles of Association and the Organization Certificate to this office.

Page 2

Mr. Dennis R. Wendte

As a body corporate or legal entity, you may begin taking those steps necessary for obtaining final approval, but you may not begin the business of banking until you fulfill all requirements for a bank in organization and you are granted final approval by the OCC.

Enclosed are standard requirements that must be met before the bank will be allowed to commence business. Management must ensure that the applicable policies and procedures are established and adopted by the board of directors before the bank begins operation. Applicable standard requirements also must be satisfied before the bank will be allowed to commence business.

The OCC poses no objection to the following persons serving as executive officers as proposed in the application. Additional executive officers are subject to the OCC's *prior* review and clearance.

President /Chief Executive Officer: **Mr. Gerhardt E. Umlauf**

Senior Lending Officer: **Mr. Mark C. Stetson**

Senior Branch Executive: **Ms. Mary K. Ahart**

The OCC poses no objection to **Mr. Patrick S. DeMoon, Mr. Lee D. Garr, Mr. Henry Gianvecchio, Mr. Keith Kotche, Mr. Edward Levato, Mr. Gregg J. Newhuis, Ms. Branka Poplonski, Mr. Edwin Schwarzer, Mr. Harvey G. Seybold, and Ms. Gayle Smolinski** serving as directors. All other directors are subject to the OCC's *prior* review and clearance.

Certain background checks requested by the OCC with respect to the above named individuals have not been received yet. Although we have decided not to delay action pending receipt of those responses, the OCC may consider remedies available to us if adverse or previously withheld information is received.

You are also reminded that for a period of two years after the bank has opened for business, the OCC must review and have no objection to any new executive officer or director *prior* to that person assuming such position.

The OCC will send to you under separate cover an appropriate set of OCC handbooks, manuals, issuances, and selected other publications.

Page 3

Mr. Dennis R. Wendte

You should direct any questions concerning this preliminary approval to Kerry T. Rice, National Bank Examiner at (312)-360-8858.

Yours truly,

**-signed-**

David J. Rogers

National Bank Examiner

Enclosures:      ACorporate Organization@ Booklet  
                         Minimum Policies and Procedures  
                         Standard Requirements