

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 Indiana Bankers Receive Top Honor



INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 10, 2023) – The Indiana Bankers Association recognized three members of the state’s banking community with Leaders in Banking Excellence awards, the Association’s highest honor. The awards were presented at a ceremony on Friday, Aug. 4, at the IBA’s headquarters in Indianapolis.

Class of 2023 Honorees

Michael K. Bauer, WesBanco Bank, Wheeling, W.Va. (*Bauer is based in New Albany, Ind.*)

Michael F. Petrie, Merchants Bank of Indiana, Carmel

Michael E. Schrage, Centier Bank, Merrillville

Honorees are chosen for their positive impact not only on Indiana’s banking industry but on the communities they serve. They are nominated by IBA-member organizations and approved by the IBA Board of Directors. Details about each honoree can be found at the end of this release.



Speakers at the ceremony included Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray; Indiana Senate Republican Caucus Chair Travis Holdman; Director Thomas C. Fite, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions; IBA Chairman Jamie Shinabarger, CEO of Springs Valley Bank & Trust Company, Jasper; and Amber R. Van Til, IBA president and CEO. Each honoree was invited to make comments and then received an ebony keepsake plaque. A permanent Wall of Excellence at the Association’s offices displays a plaque commemorating all 40 Leader in Banking Excellence honorees inducted since the award’s inception in 2018.

For more information about IBA Leaders in Banking Excellence, including past honorees, visit indiana.bank/Leaders-Banking-Excellence.



(from left) *Michael K. Bauer*, senior vice president of WesBanco Bank, Wheeling, W.Va.; *Michael E. Schrage*, CEO & Chairman of Centier Bank, Merrillville; and *Michael F. Petrie*, chairman of Merchants Bank of Indiana, Carmel; were honored by the Indiana Bankers Association as Leaders in Banking Excellence, the Association’s highest honor, at a ceremony at IBA headquarters in Indianapolis on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023.

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ABOUT MICHAEL K. BAUER

Michael K. Bauer is senior vice president and senior credit officer with WesBanco Bank, Wheeling, West Virginia. He previously served as executive vice president commercial lending for MainSource Bank, Greensburg; president and CEO of Regional Bank, New Albany; and president and CEO of Harris Bank, Bartlett, Illinois. He chaired the board of advisors of Indiana University Southeast and previously served on the boards of directors of the Southern Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council of Southern Indiana and the Arts Council of Southern Indiana. He earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University and an MBA from DePaul University. Bauer served the IBA in 2010 as chairman of the board and is a past director of the Community Bankers Association of Indiana. He was named a Distinguished Hoosier in 2010.

ABOUT MICHAEL F. PETRIE

Michael F. Petrie, CMB, is chairman of Merchants Bank of Indiana, Carmel, and Merchants Bancorp. He co-founded Merchants Capital with the goal of increasing access to safe and affordable housing in the Midwest. Petrie chaired the Mortgage Bankers Association in 2004-05 and has served on numerous boards of directors including the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, the Society of Certified Mortgage Bankers, the Indiana Association of Community and Economic Development, the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, the Indiana Affordable Housing Council and Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business, earned the certified mortgage banker designation from the Mortgage Bankers Association, is a member of the IBA 40 Year Club and was named a Sagamore of the Wabash in 2004.

ABOUT MICHAEL E. SCHRAGE

Michael E. Schrage is the chairman and CEO of Centier Bank, Merrillville. He first joined the bank in 1972 when it was known as Bank of Whiting, eventually being elected chairman of the board in 1982. Schrage represents the fourth generation of family ownership. Under his leadership, Centier became the largest private, family-owned bank in Indiana, and American Banker magazine named it the #2 best bank to work for in the nation in 2021. Schrage has served numerous community organizations including the Northwest Indiana Symphony, St. Jude House, American Red Cross, YMCA and the Calumet Council Boy Scouts. He is an alumnus of Culver Academy, earned his bachelor's degree from Denison University and a master's from the University of Colorado-Boulder. He was named a Sagamore of the Wabash in 1995 and is a member of the Indiana Bankers Association 40 Year Club.

ABOUT THE INDIANA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

The Indiana Bankers Association supports Indiana banking through issues advocacy, professional education, and products and services that enhance financial institutions' ability to help build better communities.

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