

**First Banks, Inc.  
St. Louis, Missouri**

**Contacts: James C. Fassino  
President – Northern Illinois  
First Bank  
(309) 671-4640**

**Arthur E. Greenbank  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
First Bankers Trust Company,  
National Association  
(217) 228-8000**

**Lisa K. Vansickle  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer  
First Banks, Inc.  
(314) 854-4600**

**Tom Frese  
Chief Financial Officer  
First Bankers Trust Company,  
National Association  
(217) 228-8000**

**Traded: NYSE  
Symbol: FBSPrA – (First Preferred Capital  
Trust IV, an affiliated trust of  
First Banks, Inc.)**

**OTC  
FBTT.PK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**First Bank and First Bankers Trust Company, N.A. Jointly  
Announce Signing of Branch Purchase and Assumption Agreement**

**St. Louis, Missouri, September 2, 2009.** First Bank, a subsidiary of First Banks, Inc. (“First Banks”), headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, and First Bankers Trust Company, National Association (“First Bankers Trust”), a subsidiary of First Bankers Trustshares, Inc., headquartered in Quincy, Illinois, jointly announce the signing of a Branch Purchase and Assumption Agreement (the “Agreement”) on August 31, 2009 providing for the sale of First Bank’s Springfield branch office located at 2201 Wabash Avenue in Springfield, Illinois to First Bankers Trust.

Under the terms of the Agreement, First Bankers Trust is to assume approximately \$21.5 million of deposits as well as certain other liabilities. First Bankers Trust will also purchase approximately \$1.7 million of loans as well as certain other assets, including premises and equipment. The transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals and certain closing conditions, is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2009.

James C. Fassino, President of First Bank’s Northern Illinois Region, said, “It has been a privilege serving our customers and the Springfield community and we extend our sincere wishes for the continued success of our customers and our dedicated management team and employees. First Bankers

Trust has a strong reputation with a focus on community-oriented banking that will provide our Springfield customers with an expanded banking network in the West Central Illinois counties of Adams, Hancock, McDonough and Schuyler.”

Arthur Greenbank, President and CEO of First Bankers Trust, said, “We are excited to be entering the dynamic market of Springfield. We feel that we can offer the market a high level of service and top notch financial products which should benefit all of our new clients. We are grateful to all the employees of First Bank, who are working diligently to make this transition a seamless one for the customers.”

First Bankers Trustshares, Inc. had assets of \$597.5 million at June 30, 2009 and currently operates nine branch banking offices in Illinois. Visit First Bankers Trust on the web at [www.firstbankers.com](http://www.firstbankers.com).

First Banks had assets of \$10.40 billion at June 30, 2009 and currently operates 209 branch banking offices in California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri and Texas. Visit First Banks on the web at [www.firstbanks.com](http://www.firstbanks.com). Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc. served as financial adviser to First Banks.

###

*This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements about First Banks’ plans, objectives, estimates or projections with respect to our future financial condition, expected or anticipated revenues with respect to our results of operations and our business, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of First Banks’ management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties which may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in the forward-looking statements. The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: increased competition and its effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues; changes in interest rates and overall economic conditions; and the risk of new and changing regulation. Additional factors which may cause First Banks’ results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements may be found in First Banks’ Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and available at the SEC’s internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). The forward-looking statements in this press release speak only as of the date of the press release, and First Banks does not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements.*